

CA

BRIEFS

Summer 2020

SPECIAL ISSUE:
South Florida's 2020
Judicial Candidates



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Featured on the cover is CABA's Special Issue 2020 Judicial Roundup.

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SUMMER 2020 |

CABA Briefs is published bi-annually by the Cuban American Bar Association, Inc. ("CABA"). CABA is a non-profit voluntary bar association founded in 1974 by lawyers of Cuban descent. CABA's members include judges, lawyers, and law students of all backgrounds interested in issues affecting the Cuban community, as well as broader legal and human rights issues impacting minority communities as a whole. CABA's mission is to promote equality of our members; increase diversity in the judiciary and legal community; serve the public interest by increasing awareness to the study of jurisprudence; foster respect for the law; preserve high standards of integrity, honor, and professional courtesy among our peers; provide equal access

to and adequate representation of all minorities before the courts; facilitate the administration of justice; build close relationships among our members; provide mentoring and scholarship to law students nationally; and support the indigent community through the funding and administration of an effective pro bono legal assistance project and other community programs. Reproduction in part of any text, photograph, or illustration without written permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. To submit an article or ad to CABA Briefs, please contact Diana Arteaga at arteagadm@gmail.com.

President's MESSAGE



Dear CABA Members,

I hope that as you read this message all of you are well and safe. This has been a year, quite literally, unlike any other. At the installation gala, in January of this year, I pledged to commit to making 2020 a year of service. At that time, I had no idea how timely and prophetic that pledge would actually turn out to be. Three months after making that pledge, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, we were all asked to serve in ways that most of us could never have imagined. In true CABA fashion, however, our organization rose to the occasion and has ever since been fulfilling that commitment of service to our membership and community.

It has not just been CABA rising to the occasion, it has been everyone involved in the legal community, many whom are CABA members. I have seen that commitment to service from our judiciary, committing to countless hours of training in an effort to continue serving the litigants of Florida. I have seen that commitment to service from our bar associations, donating and volunteering their time to educate, train or assist the community. I have seen that commitment to service from our Florida Bar leaders, aiding their members with legal training, financial assistance and health and wellness outreach. I have seen that commitment to service from our CABA members at their law firms, spending numerous hours on virtual Zoom hearings, depositions or calls in order to represent their clients competently and effectively. This truly has been a year

of service by any definition. On behalf of CABA: Thank you for your membership, commitment and continued service. I encourage you to carry on the good work and commitment to serve. Remember, service can be met by simple measures, inclusive of committing to be more understanding, tolerant, to be safe, to protect those most vulnerable by self-isolating during this time, by practicing social distancing, volunteering, being a parent/teacher/counselor/nurse, or by lifting our voices and taking action to achieve racial equality. I see you. I see your commitment. I am proud to be leading you as CABA President during these unprecedented times.

Likewise, under my direction, CABA, as an organization, has had to temporarily reinvent itself in order to meet the overwhelming community demand for service. CABA committed itself to its members and the community by providing robust, substantive online programming these past four months. Through the end of July, CABA has hosted nearly 40 webinars and online events ranging from legal topics on how to conduct zoom proceedings and meditations, how to effectively network during this time, addressing professionalism and ethical issues resulting from this "new normal," contract review with the pandemic in mind, and the new challenges faced in healthcare and government law. We also welcomed Cuban dissident and activist Rosa Maria Paya by Zoom to participate in addressing the topic of "The New Plaza Civica in Cuba: The Role of Social Media and Digital Platforms." Additionally, CABA has strengthened its commitment to its Health and Wellness Initiative. We have hosted virtual 5K race training, continued with a monthly mindfulness and meditation practice led by attorney Anthony "Tony" Recio, and partnered with MDAFWL for a joint monthly yoga session led by The Honorable Michaele Gonzalez-Paulson, who in addition to being a judge in the County Civil Division of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida is a certified yoga instructor. CABA also held a virtual Membership Reception, among its many other events. This Briefs edition contains the summaries and photos of these online webinars and virtual events. During our webinars, we have hosted judges as speakers from the 11th Circuit, the 17th Circuit, the 15th Judicial Circuit as well as judges from Hillsboro County, Lee County and Orange County to share their experiences with virtual proceedings.

In addition to its legal and health-related programming, CABA has also provided a virtual social outlet for our members to come together. We held a reception at The Florida Bar's first ever virtual Annual Convention entitled "Mojitos & Masks," which was attended by more than 60 participants. CABA also hosted our first virtual membership happy hour in celebration of Cuba's Independence Day—el 20 de Mayo. Not only did this virtual happy hour include a cocktail mixology demonstration, but as part of the CABA on Cuba Committee's new initiative to continue to educate our membership on historical events that have had a lasting impact on CABA, the Cuban and Cuban exile community and the greater Cuban diaspora, Past President Jose "Pepe" Villalobos provided an historical highlight talk on the importance of el 20 de Mayo. These historical highlight virtual happy hours will continue to be featured monthly.

I hope you review and enjoy the Special Judicial Edition of CABA Briefs. The edition spotlights the judicial races and provides articles and short biographies for each of the judicial candidates up for election on August 18th. We encourage you to take the time to familiarize yourself with the candidates in this Briefs edition and also to attend CABA's virtual Judicial Forum on August 7, 2020.

2020 has certainly brought with it many unexpected challenges, nonetheless I feel blessed to be leading you alongside an incredible team working with me every day to fulfill our revised mission. No matter what other challenges lie ahead of us, I am hopeful that we can all continue to serve and weather this storm together. Indeed, I am confident, we will come out of 2020 stronger, more vibrant, and closer as an organization because of it, not in spite of it.

Thank you and stay safe,

Frances
CABA 2020 President

Editor-In-Chief's MESSAGE



Dear CABA Members:

We are thrilled to present this Special Issue of CABA Briefs for your enjoyment. This electronic issue is dedicated to educating our members on South Florida's judicial candidates. I would like to thank the judicial candidates in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties who participated in this Issue, as our members both live and practice across the South Florida region and rely on information we provide relating to these races. As part of this Special Issue, we would like to congratulate our members and non-members who received judicial appointments this year by Governor DeSantis.

This Issue also provides insight into CABA's response to COVID-19 and recaps the many virtual events we have hosted for our members. Some of these events include mental health topics, health and wellness activities, virtual happy hours, legislative recaps, and how COVID-19 has impacted the court system and law firms.

Finally, I would like to thank the CABA Briefs committee members and co-chairs for their work on this issue. A special thanks to our Ads Editor Daniel Buigas and our Assistant Editors Jason Silver, Sixsy Alfonso, Sammy Epelbaum, Viviana Mendiola, Alexander Monje William Mueller and Kristen Palacio for their commitment to making this issue a reality.

We appreciate the support shown by our members and community who have contributed to this edition and look forward to working with you on our next edition.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Arteaga". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Diana Arteaga
Editor-in-Chief



County Judge

RETAIN!

JOSEPH MANSFIELD **COUNTY COURT JUDGE**

Miami deserves EXPERIENCE on the bench!

- *Member in good standing of the Miami legal community for almost 20 YEARS!*
- *16 years as a Prosecutor for the MIAMI SAO*
- *3 years as a sitting Judge in a criminal courtroom*
- *Member of the Florida Bar since 2002*
- *Member of the American Bar Association (ABA)*
- *Member of the ABA Judicial Section*
- *Former Chair of the Miami-Dade Criminal Justice Council*
- *Endorsed by the Faculty at Miami-Dade College*
- *Endorsed by the South Florida AFL-CIO*
- *Endorsed by the South Florida PBA*
- *Member of the Federalist Society*
- *Former Board member of Miami-Dade College's School of Justice Advisory Committee*
- *Former member of the Miami-Dade Public Safety Council*

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Judge Joseph Mansfield for County Court Judge, 11th Circuit Group 09.

VOTE
MARCIA
 GIORDANO HANSEN
 ★ ★ ★ **FOR JUDGE** ★ ★ ★

Vote #316



- ✓ Born to a Chilean mother and Italian-American father, Marcia speaks Spanish fluently and is conversational in Italian and French
- ✓ Practiced law for the past 20 years as a civil and criminal litigator & is an AV preeminent rated litigator by Martindale Hubbell
- ✓ Worked as an Assistant Miami-Dade Public Defender, an associate for two nationally recognized firms, Wicker Smith and Fowler White Burnett, and as a sole practitioner in her own firm, The Hansen Law Firm, since 2010
- ✓ Taken on a multitude of pro-bono cases through the Dade Legal Aid Put Something Back Program and the Ensuring Equal Justice Initiative Program
- ✓ B.A. from Barnard College - Columbia University and J.D. from Nova-Southeastern University
- ✓ On the board of Executive Relations for the Special Olympics South Florida, past board member Miami-Dade Women's Chamber of Commerce and Beaux Arts

Political Advertisement paid for and approved by the Committee to Elect Marcia Giordano Hansen no party affiliation, for Circuit Court Judge, Group 67

2020 Judicial Appointments

CABA would like to congratulate the following CABA members on their judicial appointments to Florida's Supreme Court, County Courts, Circuit Courts, and District Courts of Appeal:



The Honorable Cristina Rivera Correa
11TH Circuit—County Court



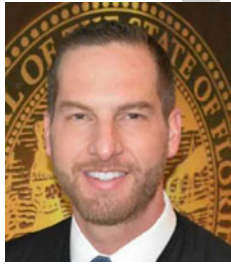
The Honorable John Couriel
Florida Supreme Court



The Honorable Michael Davis
17TH Circuit Court



The Honorable Carlos Gamez
11TH Circuit—County Court



The Honorable Zachary James
11TH Circuit Court



The Honorable Lody Jean
11TH Circuit Court



The Honorable Jeffrey Kolokoff
11TH Circuit—County Court



The Honorable Alexander Bokor
3RD Third District Court of Appeal

CABA would also like to congratulate the following individuals on their recent judicial appointments to Florida's Supreme Court, County Courts, Circuit Courts, and District Courts of Appeal:

The Honorable Edward Artau
4TH District Court of Appeal

The Honorable Andrew Bain
9TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable John Beamer
9TH Judicial Circuit Court

The Honorable Heather Beato
10TH Circuit Court

The Honorable Tabitha Blackmon
17TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Kyle Cohen
20TH Circuit Court

The Honorable Renatha Francis
Florida Supreme Court

The Honorable Gilbert Feltel
4TH Circuit Court

The Honorable Jennifer J. Frydrychowicz
1ST Circuit Court

The Honorable Elizabeth Gibson
9TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Paige Gillman
15TH Circuit Court

The Honorable William Henry
14TH Circuit Court

The Honorable Chiaka Ihekweba
11TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Scott Janowitz
11TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Jason Jones
2ND Circuit—County Court

The Honorable London Kite
4TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Robin Lanigan
4TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Robert Long Jr.
1ST District Court of Appeal

The Honorable Anthony Miller
2ND Circuit Court

The Honorable Michelle Naberhaus
18TH Circuit Court

The Honorable Aaron Peacock
18TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Cary Rada
5TH Circuit Court

The Honorable Joshua Riba
6TH Circuit Court

The Honorable Anthony Salem
4TH Circuit Court

The Honorable Layne Smith
18TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Jacqueline Steele
12TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Jennifer Swenson
10TH Circuit—County Court

The Honorable Brett Waronicki
19TH Circuit Court

The Honorable George Wright
8TH Circuit Court

CABA BRIEFS Judicial Round Up: The 2020 South Florida Circuit and County Judicial Races

The primary election will be held on August 18, 2020. The judicial round up provides a brief biography and photograph for each judicial candidate.

COUNTY AND CIRCUIT COURT ELECTIONS

The Honorable Christine Bandín vs. Shaun Spector Miami-Dade County Court—Group 24



The Honorable Christine Bandín

Judge Christine Bandín is running for re-election to the Miami-Dade County Court in Group 24. She was appointed by Governor Rick Scott in October of 2018 and currently serves in the Domestic Violence Division of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

Previously, Judge Bandin was a litigator for over 12 years, trying civil cases in Miami-Dade County. Bandín is a Miami native. She received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Florida International University and her Juris Doctor from University of Miami School of Law. Judge Bandín joined CABA following her graduation from law school. She finds CABA to be deeply immersed in the community and involved in many initiatives, including the improvement of the legal profession through diversity and the provision of legal services to those who cannot afford them.

She emphasizes that she stands out because she is prepared, diligent, dedicated to the rule of law, and passionate about community service. She recalls being



Shaun Spector

Shaun Spector is running for election to the Miami-Dade County Court in Group 24. After attending the University of Miami School of Law, Mr. Spector began his career representing plaintiffs in wage and hour disputes and discrimination claims at a labor and employment firm.

He recalls that most clients were immigrants who were being exploited; they were unaware of their legal rights, and often feared retaliation from their employers for speaking out. Mr. Spector notes that working with those clients opened his eyes to how vulnerable certain segments of our population are, and how important a role lawyers and the judiciary play in ensuring legal protections.

Thereafter, Mr. Spector worked at a mid-sized, multidisciplinary firm, where he represented corporate clients in commercial and general civil litigation. He then served as in-house counsel for a financing company, advising on matters of compliance

**The Honorable Christine Bandín vs. Shaun Spector
Miami-Dade County Court—Group 24**

**The Honorable Christine Bandín—
*Continued***

inspired by a pro bono case that she worked on prior to being appointed to the bench. Such case involved a child who was kidnapped by his mother from his home country of Peru into the United States; the child's father sought the return of the child by way of the Hague Convention. He eventually secured the safe return of the child to Peru and was very grateful and happy.

Judge Bandín felt a great deal of satisfaction in the resolution of that case, noting that on a personal and professional level, the experience was one that solidified her desire to serve in another capacity.

Shaun Spector—*Continued*

and serving as head of litigation. In 2017, Mr. Spector decided to open his own firm, the Law Offices of Shaun Spector, PLLC, which performs outside general counsel work for small businesses and represents plaintiffs and defendants in commercial disputes. He believes that such experiences have afforded him with a well-rounded perspective that would prove to be an invaluable asset if he is elected.

He underscores that if elected, he would want every person who appears before him to leave the courtroom feeling as though they had the chance to be fully heard, that he was adequately prepared as a judge, and that they were treated with courtesy and respect.

Mr. Spector reflected on the issue of access to the courts, emphasizing the need for flexibility in allowing telephonic or virtual appearances. He is appreciative of CABA's role in the community, stating that the resources CABA affords its constituents, both through education and pro bono legal services, are of vital importance.

The Honorable Joseph J. Mansfield vs. Miguel “Mike” Mirabal Miami-Dade County Court—Group 09



The Honorable Joseph J. Mansfield

Judge Joseph J. Mansfield graduated from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 2001 determined to work in public service. He began with the Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office—and spent the next 16 years there—where he tried over 80 jury trials, seeking justice for the victims of crime, fighting to protect the rights of the accused, and learning the craft of being a trial attorney.

He was appointed to the bench by Governor Rick Scott in August of 2017 and began applying what he learned as an advocate to the bench. That is, now as a judge, he knows exactly what lawyers want from the bench: a fair shot, a chance to speak, and thoughtful consideration of their arguments and perspectives. Knowing first-hand that results come and go, if lawyers take one thing from appearing before him, Judge Mansfield hopes it’s the satisfaction of knowing that he listened.

To Judge Mansfield, CABA provides a forum for fellowship and collaboration, which he knows is vital to all who have chosen to work in the field of law. To an adopted son of Miami, these relationships and the fellowship and guidance of friends in the CABA organization are especially important to continue nurturing his deeply seeded bond to the community.

Judge Mansfield is running to retain his seat on the County Court bench and hopes that for the many years that follow he’ll continue settling legal disputes, entertaining passionate and well-thought legal arguments, making sound judgments based upon his interpretation of the law, and applying the law effectively.

Above all else, Judge Mansfield takes great pride in knowing that he’s effecting change in the community that he has adopted and called his home for the past 20 years.



Miguel “Mike” Mirabal

Miguel “Mike” Mirabal graduated from Barry University School of Law in 2003 following two semesters of studying International Law at La Universidad de Maria Cristina in Spain and completed his education with an LLM in International Law, Business, and Relations from the Instituto Superior de Derecho y Economia in Madrid.

Mr. Mirabal has worked over 16 years as a lawyer and in several areas of the law, both in the U.S, Latin America and Europe. He has acted as lead attorney in all aspects of litigation, representing local individuals and international entities, non-governmental organization and non-profit causes.

Employing his dual U.S. and European Law Degrees, Mr. Mirabal has helped many domestic and international businesses and corporations in a variety of matters including mergers and acquisitions, financing, licensing, Florida Department of Education licensing and U.S. Department of Education Regulation and business litigation. He believes this varied experience will serve him well on the bench.

Mr. Mirabal said CABA means family. Mr. Mirabal’s parents left Cuba in 1960 as political prisoners and exiles, which is a common bond he shares with many of CABA’s members. With nothing more than a suitcase, his parents were forced from their homeland seeking safety, democracy and freedom in the United States. Nevertheless, Mr. Mirabal’s parents instilled in him their motto of “hard work, education, and perseverance” and he hopes to bring those same principles to bear on his prospective judicial career.

Carmen Cabarga vs. Roderick "Rod" Vereen Miami-Dade Circuit Court—Group 57



Carmen Cabarga

Carmen Cabarga is running for Circuit Court Judge in Group 57.

Ms. Cabarga has been practicing law for nineteen years and is currently a defense attorney with the Office of Criminal Conflict & Civil Regional Counsel. Ms. Cabarga is a former litigator and prosecutor, and has served as an attorney for the City of Miami Community Redevelopment Agency for Overtown/Omni/Midtown. She is a member of the Cuban American Bar Association.

When asked why she was running for a judgeship, Ms. Cabarga had this to say: "I am driven by a desire to help others. Our legal system is made up of the people that pass through our courts on a daily basis, on matters that greatly affect them individually. Each person's facts are impartially heard and decided. Not all cases make the papers, nor will most set legal precedent. The daily tasks may seem menial. However, it is this daily commitment, not grand gestures, that define our legal system. Every person has the right to have an impartial judge hear the facts of their case and apply the rule of law. This is what makes our legal system so great."

As for what she would expect to see from attorneys arguing before her, Ms. Cabarga says that she will keep in mind that we were all new attorneys at one point. However, she would like for the attorneys to be prepared, have knowledge of the rules of evidence, the facts, and the substantive law applicable to the case.

Ms. Cabarga says that she would measure her success as a judge by how well she prepares to preside over the cases that come before her. She further states that she would make herself available to hear cases and issue rulings in a timely manner.



Roderick "Rod" Vereen

Roderick "Rod" Vereen is running for Circuit Court Group 57 in Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Vereen practices at the Law Office of Rod Vereen & Associates, and is a former prosecutor, public defender and past president of the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association.

He is running for judge because, he says, he is ready for a career change. "After having been practicing law for the past 30 years I decided that I would like to make a career change and hopefully better the justice system that I have been working and, more importantly, add more diversity to the bench," Mr. Vereen said.

"Currently there are no male African American Circuit Court Judges serving in the criminal division in Miami-Dade County," Mr. Vereen said.

One of Mr. Vereen's best memories and inspirational experiences from his career is a story he told from when he was working as the first African American Federal Public Defender in Pensacola. He recalls that after winning another federal trial he had gone back to his office a block down the street from the courthouse. The Judge called him back to his chambers. He thought he had done something wrong. The judge asked him why he thinks he is winning so many trials? The judge explained to him how when he is delivering a closing statement to a mostly white jury that his delivery is something they had not experienced before. The Judge explained how their faces changed when Vereen spoke. The Judge said that the jurors had never heard a black man talk as intelligently about the law as he did and that he blows them away with the delivery of the law and the tone of his voice. "I reflect on this story every time into a courtroom, state or federal. It forever lives inside of my mind" Mr. Vereen said.

**Carmen Cabarga vs. Roderick "Rod" Vereen
Miami-Dade Circuit Court—Group 57**

Roderick "Rod" Vereen—Continued

If given the chance to be a judge, Mr. Vereen would want the lawyers in front of him to be prepared. "I expect the lawyers to be prepared. It doesn't matter about the number of trials a lawyer has. Be able to present your case in a coherent form and defend your actions," Mr. Vereen said.

When asked, Mr. Vereen says, "Access to the court system for the general public needs improvement. The Clerk's office needs an overhaul. Many times a lawyer needs documents from a criminal court file that are not available on the Miami-Dade Clerk of Court website, which causes delays in being able to prepare pleadings,

consult with potential clients and research," Mr. Vereen said.

Mr. Vereen supports the work of the Cuban American Bar Association. "I am not a member of CABA, but I support CABA's initiatives and its purpose. CABA is necessary. CABA is as important to Hispanic members of the legal community as the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association is to the African American lawyers. Over the years CABA and the WDFJBA have worked collectively to assure more diversity on the bench. CABA has done very well in getting Hispanic representation on the bench. Unfortunately, the WDFJBA has not been as lucky. I am hopeful, I will be elected to partially fill this void. I feel I am a great candidate and have a history and reputation of working hard for our communities."

JAIANNA SEABORNE

FOR COUNTY COURT JUDGE, GROUP 12

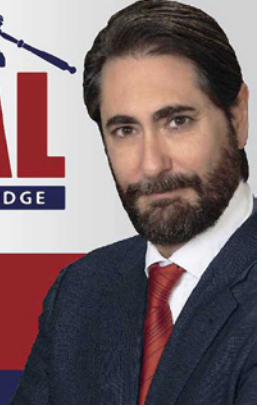
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REBULL

MIAMI-DADE CIRCUIT JUDGE

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9 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE ON THE BENCH

VOTE #315

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Political Advertisement paid for and approved by the Committee to Elect Thomas J. Rebull, no-party affiliation, for Circuit Court Judge

The Honorable Thomas Rebull vs. Denise Martinez-Scanziani Miami-Dade Circuit Court—Group 65



The Honorable Thomas Rebull

Judge Thomas J. Rebull is running for re-election to the Miami-Dade Circuit Court in Group 65.

As a young lawyer, Judge Rebull clerked for Judge Joseph Nesbit at the Third District Court of Appeal, an experience that he says taught him to approach every case with an open mind.

He considers Judge Robert Luck, of the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, a mentor. He says Judge Luck taught him the importance of simple, yet effective judicial writing, the kind that can be understood by all members of the community.

Today, Judge Rebull brings these lessons into his courtroom. His mission is to show sympathy for those in his courtroom by being the kind judge he would have liked to practice in front of as an attorney. He said he tries to understand the balance between the duties that attorneys, witnesses, and jurors have inside the courtroom with those they have outside the courtroom.

Judge Rebull prides himself on being a judge that is on time, prepared and respectful. According to Judge Rebull, the courtroom is the place where lawyers shall “present the best argument possible” for their clients.

Judge Rebull said he has always had a tremendous affection and respect for the Cuban American Bar Association and considers having been the recipient of the Mario Goderich Award for Professionalism “PAVER” award one of his proudest achievements.

When asked about the Cuban American Bar Association, he said he has always had a tremendous affection and respect for CABA and considers having been the recipient of the Mario Goderich Award for Professionalism “PAVER” one of his proudest achievements. He says CABA has played a very important role in emphasizing the importance of the rule of law in our constitutional system of government, most pointedly to be contrasted with the failed government of the Cuban Revolution.

Judge Rebull is an avid music lover who loves to travel with his two daughters. He hopes to keep serving his community with the support of voters.



Denise Martinez-Scanziani

Denise Martinez-Scanziani is running for the Miami-Dade Circuit Court in Group 65.

As a young lawyer, Martinez-Scanziani accepted a position as a staff attorney with Legal Aid, representing one of the most vulnerable populations in the community—senior citizens.

After leaving Legal Aid, Ms. Denise Martinez-Scanziani has continued to serve the community by taking on pro-bono cases—usually at the appellate level. Her goal when taking on these pro bono cases is to give the client an opportunity to “be seen and heard.”

She considers one of the most important wins in her career to be when she had the opportunity to represent a young man who had been deprived of meaningful rights as a father. Martinez-Scanziani said she was able to make a meaningful difference in this case by having the lower court’s decision reversed on appeal.

Outside the practice of law, Ms. Martinez-Scanziani likes to spend time singing with her sister—a professional opera singer—and with her three teenage children to whom she hopes to teach how important it is to serve one’s community.

Ms. Martinez-Scanziani believes she is specially qualified to be a judge given her trial and appellate experience in different areas of the law—civil, family, and dependency. She hopes to apply her knowledge in service of the community as she is elected as a judge.

The Honorable Dava J. Tunis vs. Rosy Aponte Miami-Dade Circuit Court—Group 75



Rosy Aponte

Rosy Aponte is running for election to the Miami-Dade Circuit Court in Group 75.

Ms. Aponte is a solo practitioner in Doral who handles employment, civil rights, insurance, and commercial and real estate litigation. She was born in Puerto Rico, and is the oldest daughter of eight children in a family raised by a single mother. Ms. Aponte grew up in Little Havana across the street from Jose Marti Park and attended public school all her life.

She graduated from Miami-Dade Community College with an AA, then from Barry University with a Bachelor in Science while working full time. Before becoming an attorney, she was an Elementary School teacher for the public school system for over seven years. She attended Whittier Law School in the evening while teaching during the day.

When Ms. Aponte first became an attorney, she began her career prosecuting Civil Rights and Discrimination cases against employers for Race, Nationality, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation and Religion. She also represented and defended borrowers in foreclosure cases during the height of foreclosure litigation.

She says she is running because she wants to serve the community she grew up in. She recalls experiences being in a courtroom where the law didn't matter—only the relationships litigants had with the judge. This is a huge reason she is running for judge, Ms. Aponte said.

She counts United States Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor as her role models as they have each overcome diversity and minority-related challenges in impressive ways.

If she becomes a judge she wants all lawyers to feel like they had their voice and arguments heard while being treated with integrity, respect and consideration. She says that, most importantly, her decisions will be based on the law and fairness.



The Honorable Dava J. Tunis

Judge Dava. J. Tunis is running for reelection to the Miami-Dade Circuit Court in Group 75. Former Governor Jeb Bush appointed her to both the County and Circuit Courts. She has previously been reelected without opposition three times.

Judge Tunis has served in both the County and Circuit Courts in many different divisions, including: Domestic Violence, (Family Civil Injunctions and Uncontested Dissolution of Marriage), Juvenile and Criminal. She has handled approximately 12,000 cases and presided over 150 jury trials of varying lengths and complexity, ranging from two days to four months.

As far as how Judge Tunis approaches her work in the courtroom, she says she takes the bench prepared to address the issues, motions and pleadings on the docket, having read all materials and case law that attorneys provide.

Judge Tunis describes herself as a trial-active judge who treats all litigants with dignity and respect, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

Judge Tunis says the most impactful and meaningful experience of her life has been raising her daughters and that they have been raised in a family surrounded by love, and an environment in which they have been taught to treat others with respect and dignity. Having daughters grow into young women who are independent, intelligent and loving is indeed an achievement, said Judge Tunis.

As far as the professional community, the honors that stand out most to Judge Tunis are when she received the Judicial Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Dade County Bar Association and the President's Award of Merit presented by the President of The Florida Bar.

Judge Tunis said she is seeking re-election as a Circuit Court Judge because she has worked, during her twenty years on the bench, tirelessly to fairly and efficiently handle all matters in court.

The Honorable Mavel Ruiz vs. Marcia Giordano Hansen Miami-Dade Circuit Court—Group 67



The Honorable Mavel Ruiz

Judge Mavel Ruiz is running for re-election in Miami-Dade Circuit Group 67.

Judge Ruiz was first elected in 2014 and formerly served as an Assistant Public Defender in Miami-Dade County.

Born in Santa Clara, Las Villas, Cuba, Judge Ruiz was forced to leave Cuba and fly to Miami in March of 1966 after communist soldiers evicted her and her parents from their home. She would never see her grandparents again.

Judge Ruiz's inspiration to become a judge arises from the first day she walked into Courtroom 2-5 before Judge Thomas K. Petersen in the Juvenile Delinquency Division. She recalls how he was thoughtful and inspiring to the children and treated the respondents with kindness and respect.

It is that experience which has driven her to be a judge - one who does not humiliate litigants or humiliate each other. She has appeared before at least 100 different judges in her career and considers the Hon. Judge Marc Schumacher, who is now retired, to be one of the most inspirational judges she has appeared before because of the respect he provided to litigants and because he conducted himself in a serious, fair, level-headed and patient way.

Judge Ruiz also considers Chief Judge Bertila Soto, Judge Peter Lopez, and retired Judge Stanford Blake as role models.

Judge Ruiz recounts a lesson from her time as an Assistant Public Defender as one of the most inspiring experiences in her career—a lesson that people can change. A former client of hers who was acquitted of felony murder, robbery and armed battery, and had accepted a plea and a long probation period in other



Marcia Giordano Hansen

Marcia Giordano Hansen is running for Miami-Dade Circuit Court in Group 67. She is currently a civil and criminal defense litigator and started her career in public service in 2000 when she began working as an Assistant Public Defender.

She says her experiences as a litigator for 20 years in diverse roles with diverse experiences have prepared her best to be a judge. She has been a government employee representing indigent clients, an associate in large firms representing powerful corporate clients and a solo practitioner representing the people of Miami-Dade County.

When asked who her biggest role model she said the choice was easy, her mother. She says she looks up to her mother for her courage, patience, positivity and hard work ethic. Her mother left her country and came to the United States when she was only 18 years old due to the political instability in her country at the time as well. She worked in the airline industry and then helped her father create a successful business.

An inspiring experience that stands out from her career was when she represented a businesswoman accused of defrauding a client for millions of dollars. Ms. Hansen recalled that at mediation she tried to convince her client to settle because of the risks of going to trial and because of how much money her client could potentially lose. Ms. Hansen's client then told her she would not settle and said, "we are going to win this and I know you can do it Marcia." She took that confidence, filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, which led to her opposing counsel withdrawing, and eventually got the judgment. Her client inspired her to fight for what is right and that justice, in the end, is always served.

**The Honorable Mavel Ruiz vs. Marcia Giordano Hansen
Miami-Dade Circuit Court—Group 67**

The Honorable Mavel Ruiz—Continued

open cases, surprised her in her chambers. She learned he had been released from prison, gotten a job as a dishwasher and subsequently promoted to cook at a sushi restaurant. He also had a significant other and was living a peaceful life.

Judge Ruiz also has very high praises for the Cuban American Bar Association. She said she would not be a judge if it were not for CABA's work throughout the years and that there would be less diversity on the bench without it.

She also recalled a story she heard once of when Osvaldo Soto, one of the founders of CABA, witnessed an elderly judge ask a young female attorney why she was not home rearing children. Mr. Soto told this attorney that such was not acceptable, explained that CABA was an organization addressing such issues, and invited her to become a member. That young woman is now a judge in Miami-Dade County.

For those who wish to one day try to attempt to become a judge, the advice Judge Ruiz has is make sure it is something you truly want because the road is long and difficult.

Marcia Giordano Hansen—Continued

As far as interests and hobbies outside of the professional arena, Ms. Hansen is an avid Peloton rider and played tennis in college competitively.

She is a member of CABA and has been to several of its educational events and social gatherings. Hansen said CABA is a necessary organization, not only for Cuban Americans but also for others of diverse backgrounds like herself, who understand the plight of our parents who fled their countries to the US to give us everything they did not have.

As far as advice for those who wish to be a judge, Ms. Hansen's advice is to "always keep fighting to reach your goal." She says you will have good days and you will have a lot of bad days, but know that all the experiences make you who you are. She says becoming a judge is not easy and takes a lot of work so you will need to keep focused, keep fighting and "never let them see you sweat!"

Joe Perkins vs. Olanike “Nike” Adebayo Miami-Dade Circuit Court—Group 55



Olanike “Nike” Adebayo

Olanike Adebayo is running for Circuit Court Judge, Group 55, in Miami-Dade County. Adebayo is currently an Assistant Regional Counsel for the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel. She has 22 years of experience in criminal and civil litigation.

Ms. Adebayo said she has made extensive voluntary contributions as a voluntary bar association past president, board member for Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., mentor, and volunteer for a number of organizations. She is also a member of the Cuban American Bar Association.

Ms. Adebayo said her desire to become a judge stems from her many summers in Nigeria, where she witnessed the limited infrastructure in stark contrast to the United States. She recognized the value of living in a country where laws are enforced, and people are held accountable for their actions. Her childhood experiences, legal career, and civic involvement led to her dedication to become a judge.

As a judge, Ms. Adebayo would strive to manage a large docket and conduct trials timely. She would help encourage cooperation between parties and facilitate alternative dispute resolution, where appropriate. She also said she would educate the public about the court system through forums for all ages.

Ms. Adebayo’s mentor is her mother. She says her mother instilled strength and wisdom in her at a young age as she grappled with the realities of being bi-racial during a time when cultural diversity was not readily accepted. Her experiences shaped her, generating confidence and self-awareness.

Ms. Adebayo and her husband’s personal experience in adopting their son, impassioned her to strive for every child in foster care to be adopted. Her pastimes include mentoring, reading, traveling and watching theatrical performances.

Ms. Adebayo considers herself a servant leader who believes “service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth.”



Joe Perkins

Joe Perkins is running for Circuit Court Judge, Group 55, in Miami-Dade County. He is an experienced attorney in both civil and criminal court and within the state and federal court systems. He is a member of the Cuban American Bar Association.

Mr. Perkins was led to run for judge because of a call to service. He believes in judicial efficiency and is committed to applying the judicial labor necessary to maintain a reasonable caseload and timely access to the courts. Judicial preparation in advance of all hearings is a top priority. An unfettered desire to rule accurately will always be at the forefront of Mr. Perkins’s judicial decisions. Every lawyer who leaves his courtroom should feel that he understood and thoughtfully considered each lawyer’s position.

To improve upon the court system, Mr. Perkins maintains that the courts should fully adopt ZOOM as an alternative for motion-calendar and non-evidentiary hearings, saving litigants time and resources. “The silver lining of this terrible COVID tragedy is that it has provided our judiciary with the impetus to embrace the technology of our era.”

Mr. Perkins’s campaign experience provided him with the opportunity to enjoy deep conversations with many voters. This solidified his belief that while our individual circumstances are singular, we can still unite behind common ideals. Similarly, we can unite behind the basic creed that a judiciary that is attentive, impartial, and well-grounded benefits all of us, as one Miami-Dade family.

In his free time, Mr. Perkins enjoys playing trucks with his son, animation, and learning foreign languages. Perkins speaks English, Spanish, and also is self-taught in Japanese. Mr. Perkins’s mentor is his late grandfather, who taught him the value of hard work and respect. He dedicates his campaign to him and his late mother to honor their memories.

The Honorable Phoebee R. Francois vs. Jacob E. Segal Broward County Court—Group 27



The Honorable Phoebee R. Francois

Judge Phoebee R. Francois is a County Court Judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County and running for reelection to County Court Group 27. Judge Francois has been serving since June 2018. She is currently assigned to a civil and criminal division at the West Satellite Courthouse in Plantation, Florida.

Before becoming a judge she previously served the community as a Hearing Officer/Magistrate for nine years. She also worked as an attorney who represented both plaintiffs and defendants in civil and criminal litigation.

Judge Francois counts her grandfather and father as motivational figures which led her to pursue her current position as a judge. “My passion has always been to be a judge. My grandfather was a judge in Haiti and my father was a lawyer there. When I was a little girl, I remember listening to their stories about the turmoil in Haiti. My father ran for office in Haiti but was forced to abandon his candidacy because of threats for his safety. They both always talked about the fact that although Haiti has a Constitution and a body of law, the laws are not followed nor respected there. My grandfather and my dad were instrumental in shaping my values and work ethic.”

Judge Francois also recalled when a few weeks after graduation from law school, her mother had a brain aneurysm. During her brain surgery, she had 3 strokes and slipped into a coma. She eventually told Judge Francois that she wanted her to focus on passing the bar and achieving my dream of becoming a lawyer and a judge. Her mother went on to walk despite a poor



Jacob E. Segal

Mr. Jacob E. Segal did not respond to various requests to submit a biography profile for CABA Briefs.

The Honorable Phoebee R. Francois vs. Mr. Jacob E. Segal Broward County Court—Group 27

The Honorable Phoebee R. Francois— *Continued*

prognosis and lived for 20 years after the aneurysm. People tell her she inherited her mother's attributes.

"It motivated me to persevere through the appointment process which is why I kept applying until I achieved the biggest accomplishment of my life, attaining my dream of becoming a Judge," Judge Francois said.

An example of that hard work is illustrated in how Judge Francois never quit in her efforts to become a judge.

"My road to obtaining my appointment was not an easy one. I applied 15 times before finally being appointed by Governor Scott. I learned through that process that hard work and perseverance really pays off. I was in the middle of a hearing when I received the call from the Governor. It was unbelievable because at that moment I knew that all of my hard work and perseverance had actually paid off," Judge Francois said.

Judge Francois has spent countless hours volunteering her time and abilities for numerous non-profits for at-risk youth by mentoring young students in middle school, high school, college and law school throughout the South Florida community. She has volunteered with the Broward County School Board to help improve the quality of education for all students in Broward County.

She currently serves as an active Board Member for Broward County Community Action Agency, Community Access Center and volunteers with the Make-A-Wish Foundation as a wish granter. She also serves on the board of Broward Meals on Wheels, a nonprofit organization that provides nutrition services to Broward seniors and is dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation.

Judge Francois is very supportive of organizations like CABA and has connections to the organization. "I believe that it is very importance for the legal profession to give back to the community and am very impressed with CABA's mission of providing pro bono legal services and changing lives through legal advocacy. Additionally, I have also supported and been involved with the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association. It is important to note that my brother in law Hans Ottinot is a long time member of CABA and has been involved in several projects with former CABA Presidents Roland Sanchez-Medina and Victoria Mendez," she said.

She has been recognized for her work in the community and has been awarded the "Women of Distinction Award" by the Lauderhill Chamber of Commerce in

2015. She also was featured as one of South Florida's most powerful and influential leaders' of 2018 in Legacy Magazine and received the Community Pillar Award from the Gwen Cherry Women's Lawyers Association.

The Honorable Dennis Daniel Bailey vs. Abbe Sheila Rifkin Logan vs. George Odom, Jr.
Broward County Circuit Court—Group 16



The Honorable Dennis Daniel Bailey

Judge Bailey did not respond to various requests to submit a biography profile for CABA Briefs.



George Odom Jr.

Raised on “humble beginnings” in a disenfranchised community in Jacksonville, Florida, George Odom, Jr. learned the value of public service at a young age. He joined the United States Marine Corps and served during September 11, 2001, receiving an honorable discharge as a noncommissioned officer in 2004. Following his active duty service, Odom attended the University of North Florida, obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration of Finance, with a minor in Economics, in 2008. He then attended Florida Coastal School of Law, graduating in 2012.

Mr. Odom moved to Broward County, Florida in 2012 and started his own law firm, Dixon & Odom. With a diversified employment background and extensive experience in the criminal justice system, Odom has tried a number of cases and has represented those charged with capital crimes. He has practiced in various areas of the law, including family, civil, probate, dependency and juvenile law.

Mr. Odom has served in leadership roles in the Broward County Bar Association and the TJ Reddick Bar Association. He also sits on the Tamarac Planning and Zoning Board Commission as an alternate in a quasi-judicial capacity. Odom cites his appointment to chair the 17th Judicial Circuit Professionalism panel as one of his many great highlights in his legal career. He speaks regularly at various grade schools, community events and organizations, and is currently serving a second term as Vice Chair of the Ministry of Directors of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church.

Should he be elected, Odom wants “every lawyer to know when they enter my courtroom I will be fair and impartial. They will get their fair day in court and their



Abbe Sheila Rifkin Logan

Abbe Sheila Rifkin Logan is running for Circuit Court Group 16 in Broward County, Florida. She has been a public servant her entire legal career, representing the people of the State of Florida in the most serious of cases—death penalty cases, murders, sex crimes, robberies, and other violent crimes. In addition to working as a practicing attorney, Ms. Rifkin Logan is a law professor.

The Honorable Dennis Daniel Bailey vs. Abbe Sheila Rifkin Logan vs. George Odom, Jr. Broward County Circuit Court—Group 16

Abbe Sheila Rifkin Logan—*Continued*

Ms. Rifkin Logan says her motivation for a judge started from the day she was sworn in. “I’m not running for this office because I’m looking for a pay raise (in fact, it’s not much more than my current salary) or a place to retire or take it easy. On the contrary—I have wanted to be a judge since the day I took the oath of the Florida Bar. This was my goal, this was what awaited if I worked hard and proved myself worthy,” she said. She views being a judge as the next step in her public service.

Ms. Rifkin Logan remembers when there was a modicum of sexism when she began her legal career 40 years ago. “I was often assumed to be the court reporter, or the clerk, or the probation officer, or any traditionally female job. I got called honey and sweetie, and while I didn’t take offense to it (as none was intended), it did teach me to confront someone diplomatically and tactfully.”

She also has great memories from early in her career. She recalls a moment after a trial that didn’t go well. After the trial, the judge gave her advice and let her know how she could improve while motivating her to “grow up and try again.” She knew she wanted to be the kind of judge he was—“smart and kind, a good teacher and someone concerned enough with the justice system to make sure that lawyers learned and grew.”

The experiences and stories that most inspire Ms. Rifkin Logan come from the victims -especially the next-of-kin and survivors. She recalls one surviving victim lost her 5-year-old child to the person who had tried to kill her. The child was killed in order to eliminate her as a witness. Despite her gigantic loss, Ms. Rifkin Logan saw a woman who channeled her grief into helping others deal with their losses. “Her quiet dignity has never left my mind,” Ms. Rifkin Logan said. She also recalled horribly abused children who had IQs of 41 and 4. They wanted to meet the jury as they had a right to do. They showed up dressed very nicely—in their “Sunday best” and “the girl curtsied and the boy bowed, and the jury was in tears. Their purity of heart made me smile and cry,” Ms. Rifkin Logan said.

Ms. Rifkin Logan has great relationships with members of the Cuban American Bar Association and speaks very fondly of it. “I have had a relationship with CABA for years as a long-time Miami-Dade lawyer. My boss, Katherine Fernandez Rundle, is a former president of the organization. President-elect Dax Bello is a former colleague. Past presidents Victoria Mendez, Tony Castro, Michael Diaz, Oscar Marrero, Art Alvarez, and Tony Marin are former colleagues. Marlene Quintana, Hector Lombana, and the late Manny Crespo are people I consider to be giants in the field and I’m lucky to call them friends. As a matter of fact, the opposing counsel in the first case I tried was a former CABA president,

the lovely gentleman, Jose “Pepe” Villalobos,” Ms. Rifkin Logan said.

“Like most organizations whose members come together for a common goal, CABA is important in promoting the ideals of the Latin and Hispanic members of our community and our legal family, especially in a place like South Florida. Because of an organization like CABA, new practitioners can find mentors and law students can obtain scholarships, which increases the number of minority/Hispanic/Latin law practitioners and thus promotes diversity in our richly-diverse culture,” said Rifkin Logan.

Ms. Rifkin Logan would be honored to serve the community she has called home since 1982 and, as far as advice to others who wish to pursue being a judge one day, she says one must learn some humility. “The humble judge is the judge who puts the solemn duties of the role before his or her own wishes and desires. That judge is the judge for all people,” Ms. Rifkin Logan said.

George Odom Jr.—*Continued*

clients will be treated with respect. They will be heard and justice will be the cornerstone of my courtroom.”

Mr. Odom is a husband and proud father of two great children. He enjoys fishing, reading, and spending time with his family.

The Honorable Patti Englander Henning vs. Kristen Weisberg Padowitz Broward County Circuit Court—Group 18



The Honorable Patti Englander Henning

Judge Henning did not respond to various requests to submit a biography profile for CABA Briefs.



Kristen Weisberg Padowitz

Kristen Weisberg Padowitz is running for Broward County Circuit Court Group 18.

She earned her degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida and went on to earn her law degree from Nova Southeastern University.

Ms. Weisberg Padowitz has worked at both the Broward County Public Defender's Office and the State Attorney's Office, where she was eventually promoted to the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Unit, working with the most sensitive of criminal prosecutions, and dealing with the most vulnerable of society, children.

"I am running for office because serving the public as a Circuit Court Judge would be the pinnacle of my legal career. I have completed more than 75 jury trials as lead counsel while practicing criminal defense and prosecution," Ms. Weisberg Padowitz said.

One of the most memorable cases she dealt with was of an 11-year-old minor who was abused by a family member. "One of the cases that stands out in my mind the most was a child victim who was sexually battered by a family member. At the time of the trial she was only 11 years old and the abuse had been going on for years. I recall the grace and poise she had as she sat on the witness stand, pointed at her family member, and told a jury of strangers of what had happened to her on too many occasions to count. The strength of that child inspires me to this day," Ms. Weisberg Padowitz said.

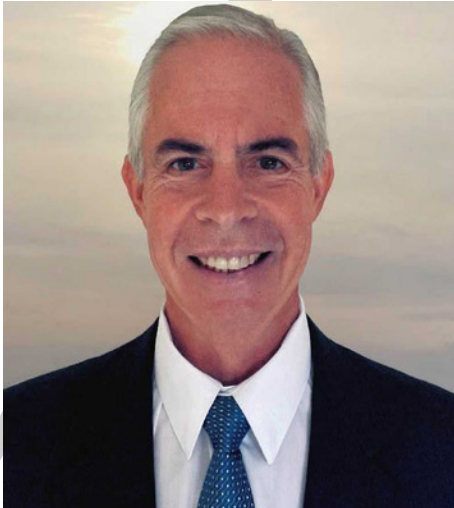
Ms. Weisberg Padowitz believes that continuing to incorporate technology in the courts is something that can continue to help the court system improve.

"We live in a very digital world and don't take enough advantage of that in order to save time and resources. I would suggest the courts continue to handle minor hearings virtually. Non-evidentiary hearings such as Motions to Compel, status hearings and case management hearings being handled virtually would save lawyers and citizens time and money," Ms. Weisberg Padowitz said.

She also believes organizations like CABA help our entire justice system. "I believe diversity is extremely important. If I am elected to this seat, I will make sure litigants that need an interpreter have one before going forward with their hearing. Bar associations that represent specific interests and concerns among its' members can only serve to enhance the justice system," Ms. Weisberg Padowitz said.

As far as advice to those who wish to one day pursue a judicial position, Ms. Weisberg Padowitz emphasizes the importance of working hard over time. "My advice would be the process of running for office is a marathon, not a sprint. And if you live with Drive, Desire, Dedication and Determination, you will achieve your Destiny. Maybe not on your timeline, but it will happen," she said.

The Honorable Frank Ledee vs. Matthew Isaac Destry vs. Meredith Chaiken-Weiss Broward County Circuit Court—Group 27



Matthew Isaac Destry

Matthew Isaac Destry has practiced law for more than 30 years. In that time, he has served as a prosecutor, a statewide prosecutor, a private practitioner, and a Circuit Court Judge. Having been initially appointed by Governor Charlie Crist in 2007 to the 17th Judicial Circuit Court in Broward County, he was then elected to a full term in 2010. Mr. Destry served as a Circuit Court Judge until he left the bench in 2016.

At 19, Mr. Destry enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he was trained as a Russian linguist. He then attended the University of Tampa on a full academic scholarship, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 1985. He later graduated from Stetson College of Law in 1988.

Following law school, Mr. Destry became an Assistant State Attorney in the 6th Judicial Circuit for Pasco and Pinellas counties. As a prosecutor, Mr. Destry tried cases from misdemeanors to first-degree murder. His most high-profile case came when he worked on the case of Aileen Wuornos, the notorious serial killer. As a statewide prosecutor, Mr. Destry handled Medicaid Fraud and RICO cases. From 1997 to 2004, he was in private practice at his own law firm, Matthew I. Destry, P.A., where he handled a wide variety of civil and criminal matters.

Mr. Destry has “always admired and sought to emulate people who do the right thing, even when no one is looking or in the face of adversity.” If elected, he only asks “that lawyers who appear before me be professional and prepared.”

Since the early 1990s, Mr. Destry has taught classes at Saint Leo University. He has also been involved with Best Buddies and the Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention.

In addition to his Russian linguist training, Mr. Destry is also fluent in French and has a working knowledge of Spanish.



The Honorable Frank Ledee

Judge Frank David Ledee is running as the incumbent for Circuit Court Group 27. He was appointed to the Circuit Court for the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida in December 2018 and currently serves in the Unified Family Division.

He was born in Puerto Rico and was raised in the Caribbean until 1976 when he moved to Broward County to attend Florida Air Academy. He has lived in the City of Hollywood since 1996.

He is one of twelve (12) Hispanic/Latin judges serving in Broward County. The group was recognized by the Broward County Bar Association last year as a group.

Prior to his appointment to the Circuit Court, Judge Ledee served the public for over two decades as an Assistant State Attorney. As the Chief of the Multi-Agency Gang Strike Force, the Gang Prosecution Unit, and the Gun Violence Unit, Judge Ledee lead and coordinated numerous proactive local, state, and federal investigations and prosecutions targeting violent gang members, armed drug dealers, career criminals and firearm offenders.

He also served as a homicide prosecutor, where he successfully tried numerous felony cases to verdict including murder, racketeering, robbery, burglary, sexual battery, aggravated battery, aggravated assault, aggravated child abuse, and trafficking in controlled substances and was an Instructor for the Miami-Dade Police Department Training Bureau.

Regarding additional service to the community, he was appointed to serve as a Commissioner and Corporate Director for the South Broward Hospital District in July 2016 and served the Memorial Healthcare System until he became a Judge in November 2018.

He is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Creole and prides himself on his ability to communicate with all those to seek justice in his courtroom.

The Honorable Frank Ledee vs. Matthew Isaac Destry vs. Meredith Chaiken-Weiss
Broward County Circuit Court—Group 27



Meredith Chaiken-Weiss

Ms. Chaiken-Weiss did not respond to various requests to submit a biography profile for CABA Briefs.

The Honorable Dale C. Cohen vs. Ian Richards
Broward County Circuit Court—Group 30



The Honorable Dale C. Cohen

Appointed to the bench in 2006, Judge Cohen is a circuit judge for the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County. Judge Cohen currently serves in the family court division and has previously been re-elected, without opposition, in 2008 and 2014. Further, Judge Cohen has been appointed to serve as a member of the grievance committee for mediators, which presides over alleged ethical violations of mediators. Judge Cohen also serves as the judicial representative for Broward's Online Dispute Resolution Panel. During his 14-year tenure as a judge, Judge Cohen has done his best to curtail child abuse, abandonment, and neglect by requiring parents to undergo therapy and training to deal with the underlying causes of their poor parenting skills. Before taking the bench, he practiced in federal and state court in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach County as a Board-Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer who gained recognition as an AV-rated lawyer by Martindale Hubbell and was named as a Super Lawyer. Outside the courtroom, Judge Cohen loves to spend time with his wife, son, daughter, and their two dogs Summer (a Labrador retriever) and Cooper (a crazy mini Golden doodle).



Ian Richards

Mr. Richards did not respond to various requests to submit a biography profile for CABA Briefs.



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Judge Vegina "Gina" Hawkins vs. Linda A. Alley
Broward County Circuit Court—Group 50



Judge Vegina "Gina" Hawkins

Judge Hawkins did not respond to various requests to submit a biography profile for CABA Briefs.



Linda A. Alley

Linda A. Alley is running for election to County Court Group 50 in Broward County.

She has lived in South Florida since she was a child and attended public school in Broward County.

She then obtained her associates degree from Broward College and a bachelor's degree from Florida Atlantic University, both with honors, while working full time. She first worked for Southern Bell Telephone Company in Pompano Beach for over 15 years.

She then returned to Broward College to take paralegal classes. After completing those classes, she went to work for Sheldon J. Schlesinger, one of the most well-known trial lawyers in the country. About 5 years later, during which time Ms. Alley completed her history degree at Florida Atlantic University, she was accepted at the University of Florida Levin College of Law where she graduated with honors at the age of 47.

She has raised two children, Sarah Gresham and Brad Keller in Broward County and they were educated in the public school system. She is a prosecutor at the Broward County State Attorneys' Office.

Ms. Alley says that during her career she has also represented injured people, spending many hours in hearings and trials before dozens of judges.

Palm Beach County

Judge Debra Moss Stephens vs. Jaianna Seaborne Palm Beach County Court—Group 12



Jaianna Seaborne

Jaianna Seaborne is running for County Judge in Palm Beach County Group 12.

She attended Fayetteville State University and completed her Bachelor's degree in Legal Administration at the University of West Florida. She then attended St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, Florida, where she graduated in 2005.

She is the daughter of a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer, and, growing up in a military family, she lived in and experienced many different cities.

Ms. Seaborne served in the United States Air Force as a Medic during Operation Enduring Freedom, specifically serving before and after 9/11. After receiving an Honorable discharge, she was employed at the 15th Judicial Circuit Public Defender's office in West Palm Beach where she tried county court and felony cases. As one of the initial attorneys assigned to the Serious Crimes Division, she primarily tried cases with capital sentences and minimum mandatory sentences.

She then served as the in-house counsel for GEICO insurance company, where she tried personal injury cases to verdict and currently serves as managing attorney for the Law offices of JR Seaborne PLLC, where she practices civil, family, and criminal cases. She also serves as an ORCC attorney in West Palm Beach, where she practices felony criminal cases.

Ms. Seaborne emphasizes that she has the heart for the position. "Being a judge is a position of service and trust. This isn't about renewing a job. This is about restoring respect, knowledge, and compassion. I have a heart for



Judge Debra Moss Stephens

Judge Stephens did not respond to various requests to submit a biography profile for CABA Briefs.

Judge Debra Moss Stephens vs. Jaianna Seaborne Palm Beach County Court—Group 12

Jaianna Seaborne—*Continued*

service and can be trusted to demonstrate respect and a knowledge of the law.”

Ms. Seaborne is running for Judge because she feels she has the knowledge of the law and the ability to apply the law in a respectful manner that will render fair and impartial decisions. “I am pursuing this position because the court is the place to go to right a wrong or address an injustice. The peaceful resolution of differences depends on fair judges. When involved in a lawsuit, there must be confidence that the judge will decide the case based on the law and the evidence presented,” she said.

“I feel it is the judge’s duty to treat each person who enters court, attorneys, and parties alike, with dignity and respect. I feel that I possess the knowledge of the law and the ability to apply the law in a respectful manner that will render fair and impartial decisions, so that those no matter who wins or who loses, all participants know they received a fair hearing and can trust the process,” Ms. Seaborne said.

Ms. Seaborne views 15th Circuit County Judge Sheree Cunningham as a role model and someone she would model herself after. “When I began my career as a Public Defender, one of the first judges I ever practiced before was Judge Sheree Cunningham. As a fresh attorney, I was scared to death. She provided encouragement and guidance throughout those early stages of my career.

Her guidance helped me gain the confidence to be bold in court. She was even tempered, pleasant, and knowledgeable of the law. Her demeanor made it a pleasure to practice in her courtroom and she helped make me a better attorney. Through the years she has served as a woman and jurist I strive to be like,” she said.

Ms. Seaborne would also like to see the respect for the judicial system improve. “I believe that respect for the system needs improvement. I’d like to encourage those who come before the court to respect the process. That starts with the Judge. By respecting all persons who come before the Court simply for being, and not for what they possess or where they come from I believe lay people may have a renewed respect for the system,” she said.

She believes diversity should be celebrated and defended. “Although I am not a member of the Cuban American Bar Association, I am a member of the Jamaican Bar Association, The Caribbean Bar Association, Gwen S. Cherry Black women Lawyers Association, and the F. Malcolm Cunningham Bar Association and I strongly believe that people are not monolithic. I respect CABA and feel it is necessary to reflect the voice of the members of this organization. As I feel with the other organizations, it is a way to avoid being pigeonholed into “all Hispanic people” or “all black people” but a way to accept and embrace our diversity. Our diversity should be celebrated and defended. It is our chance to be heard. So I support and encourage CABA’s place in the community,” Ms. Seaborne said.

Judge Jeffrey Gillen vs. Henry Quinn Johnson Palm Beach Circuit Court—Group 16



Judge Jeffrey Gillen

Judge Jeffrey Gillen is running for re-election as a Circuit Judge in Palm Beach County Circuit Group 16. He was appointed to the court by Governor Rick Scott in December 2012 and was re-elected without opposition in 2014.

Gillen received his undergraduate degree from Denison University and his J.D. from Syracuse University. From 2008 until joining the court Gillen was the appeals director for the Florida Department of Children and Families. He had worked with that department since 1997.

What stands out most in his career is his work at the Department of Children and Families. "I've enjoyed several successes in my legal career, including being responsible for land-mark legal decisions. However, so far as my legal career goes, I am most proud of the service I have provided Florida's children in my work as a lawyer for the Department of Children and Families," Judge Gillen said. "As DCF's Statewide Appeals Director, I appeared in all five district courts of appeal and in the Florida Supreme Court many times. I consider myself blessed to be able to expand the breadth of my community service to people of all ages and backgrounds in Palm Beach County and Florida as a circuit judge. Being in the position as a circuit judge to resolve disputes between and among people in all the divisions of the circuit court is awe-inspiring," said Judge Gillen.

Judge Gillen said it's important to him that litigants walk away feeling like they were fully heard. "I want lawyers and their clients to continue, as they have over the years, to be satisfied that when they receive my



Henry Quinn Johnson

Mr. Johnson did not respond to various requests to submit a biography profile for CABA Briefs.

Judge Jeffrey Gillen vs. Henry Quinn Johnson Palm Beach Circuit Court—Group 16

Judge Jeffrey Gillen—*Continued*

rulings, regardless whether they prevail or lose, they know and feel that they have had the opportunity to be heard by and make argument to an attentive, receptive, courteous, impartial and fair judge,' said Judge Gillen.

Judge Gillen has seen firsthand how COVID-19 has prompted more technology in the Courts. He said it's important to do everything possible to ensure people have access to the courts and that while there is a debate about technology's impact on Court operations, he believes technology helps with that. "I strive to improve each and every day the efficiency with which I deal with the cases in my division with the virus-induced challenges. If there is a good thing to have come from the judicial system dealing with the virus, it is the enhanced use of technology to advance cases. Some may feel that the reliance on technology will leave less-advantaged members of our society at a disadvantage when utilizing the court system," Judge Gillen said.

"I have concluded that is not the case. I now preside over a felony division. I conduct hearings every morning, both in-person in court and via Zoom. Almost every day non-lawyers as well as lawyers appear via Zoom. As technology advances in the court system, I believe we'll actually enhance individuals' rights of access to Florida's courts as guaranteed by Florida Constitution Article I section 21," said Judge Gillen.

Outside the courtroom Judge Gillen is a former private pilot and loves spending time outdoors with his family either fishing or on land in the wild, from swamps to the Rockies.

Through his campaign Judge Gillen has enjoyed learning about legal organizations such as the Cuban American Bar Association.



LEGAL ROUND UP

By: ELLIOT B. KULA & W.AARON DANIEL & WILLIAM D. MUELLER

VIRTUAL JUDICIARY THEMED

Getting Ready for Bench Trials: What is Competent, Substantial Evidence Anyway?

Mace v. M&T Bank,
Case No. 2D16-3381 (Fla. 2nd DCA March 25, 2020)

As the Florida legal community adjusts to the—don't say it, *ay dios mio* don't say it—"new normal," lawyers may find themselves opting for more bench trials to resolve their cases. A fundamental precept of most bench trials, of course, is the presentation of "competent, substantial" evidence to support the trial judge's findings of fact. (The same concept applies occasionally for jury trials, but is more closely scrutinized on appeal in non-jury cases). The legal term is often repeated without much elaboration, but what exactly does it mean in practice?

Well, in *Mace*, the Second District Court of Appeal drilled down on the definition. Reviewing the trial court's findings of fact arising out of a bench trial, the Second District set out a fairly straight-forward formula: (a) competent evidence is evidence that is "admissible under legal rules of evidence" and (b) substantial evidence is "material" and has "definite probative value."

Competent, Substantial Evidence =
"Admissible" + "Material" + "Probative" Evidence

Keep that in mind for the myriad bench trials that are to follow. On appeal, as *Mace* demonstrates, the appellate court will only consider such evidence when reviewing the sufficiency of the evidence at trial. The *Mace* Court was clear: Not included in that consideration is "inadmissible, objected-to evidence." You must make your case with admissible, material, and probative evidence.

SUMMARY JUDGMENT REMINDER: THE NONMOVANT IS ENTITLED TO REASONABLE INFERENCES

Echevarria v. Lennar Homes, LLC,
Case No. 3D19-995 (Fla. 3rd DCA March 11, 2020)

Another adjudication that is sure to tick up as the judiciary fully takes to the new virtual setting is summary judgment. In *Echevarria*, the Third District Court of Appeal provided a useful reminder the next time you're faced with a summary judgment motion. There, a premises liability action was brought against Lennar Homes after a potential home purchaser tripped on a single-step transition outside of one of the model homes.



LEGAL ROUND UP

Lennar filed a summary judgment motion and argued that the single-step transition was “open and obvious” and thus not “inherently dangerous.” Now the plaintiff, in her deposition, testified that the step wasn’t visible and not able to be perceived from the model home. Nevertheless, Lennar believed that the step was perceivable to all who frequented the home, and cheekily argued that “no competent evidence of circumstances which would support the existence of an optical illusion.” The trial court agreed.

Well, the Third District wasn’t as comfortable determining the obviousness of that step without the aid of a trier of fact. The Court reversed. The Court concluded that there was “an issue of material fact as to whether Lennar, through an uncommon design or mode of construction, created a hidden danger (i.e., an optical illusion) on its property that a prudent invitee would not anticipate.” In other words, Ralph Waldo Emerson can rest assured that there is an optical illusion about every person we meet, and every model home we enter.

Settlement on the Horizon:
Avoid Ambiguities.

Brickell Financial Services—Motor Club, Inc. v. Road Transportation, LLC,
Case No. 4D19–986 (Fla. 4th DCA June 10, 2020)

With litigation slowing down for the time being, now may be the time to consider settling your case. If that’s the boat you find yourself in, *Brickell Financial Services* provides a valuable reminder regarding the necessary clarity of your would-be settlement documents. When preparing those documents, make sure to define all designated terms in the settlement to avoid any potential ambiguity down the road... especially with respect to the settlement amount!

In *Brickell Financial Services*, the Fourth District Court of Appeal reviewed a mediation agreement that either intentionally or unintentionally referred to two different settlement sums: (a) the “Settlement Sum,” a defined term in the agreement for which a dollar amount was not identified, and (b) “the amount referenced in paragraph 1a ... a total of \$350,000” that was owed. The trial court, asked to resolve the dispute over the settlement, had to determine whether the term “Settlement Sum” was in reference to the \$350,000 payment, or to something else.

Well, someone is either winning the lottery or has a date with the cleaners because the Fourth District determined that the settlement agreement clearly referred to the “Settlement Sum” as a different sum than the \$350,000 payment. The case was remanded back to the trial court to consider the parties’ mediation communications to determine whether a meeting of the minds occurred regarding the dollar amount to which the term “Settlement Sum” referred and, if so, what that amount was.

CABA BRIEFS

Echevarria v. Lennar Homes, LLC,

Brickell Financial Services—Motor Club, Inc. v. Road Transportation, LLC

No Jury Trials?
Jumpstart Your Case
With an Appeal!

LEGAL ROUND UP

No Jury Trials? Jumpstart Your Case With an Appeal!

In this virtual climate, you may find yourself more willing to take an appeal or file a petition on a nonfinal order. After all, if your heart is set on a jury trial, you may have quite a bit of time on your hands. If that's the case, here are a few helpful reminders when deciding whether and when to appeal.

Heckman's Insurance Group v. Craig Jernigan Enterprises, LLC, Case No. 1D19-1429 (Fla. 1st DCA April 1, 2020). Motions for reconsideration of a nonfinal order **do not** toll the 30-day time limit for appeal unless the reconsideration results in a material change between the original order and the new order.

Katz v. Riemer, Case No. 3D19-1271 (Fla. 3d DCA May 6, 2020). An order denying discovery can only be reviewed by certiorari if it "effectively eviscerates a party's claim, defense, or counterclaim." Courts typically look to the legal elements of the petitioner's claim and compare them with the discovery the trial court has granted.

Coral Gables Imports, Inc. v. Suarez, 3D19-1197 (Fla. 3d DCA July 8, 2020). An order is final when it effectuates an end to a case, not merely because it is designated as final by the trial court or the clerk.



Appellate attorney **Elliot B. Kula** of Kula & Associates, P.A., works collaboratively with great trial lawyers to provide appellate services and trial strategy consultation. Visit the Firm's website at www.KulaLegal.com.



Appellate attorney **W. Aaron Daniel** of Kula & Associates, P.A., works collaboratively with great trial lawyers to provide appellate services and trial strategy consultation. Visit the Firm's website at www.KulaLegal.com.



Appellate attorney **William D. Mueller** of Kula & Associates, P.A., works collaboratively with great trial lawyers to provide appellate services and trial strategy consultation. Visit the Firm's website at www.KulaLegal.com.



An Esquire Deposition Solutions Webinar In Partnership With the Cuban American Bar Association

Are you prepared to move your depositions forward – online? Beware: It takes more than a webcam and an internet connection to safely and securely undertake the process. A complete understanding of what remote options are available and how they work is critical to avoiding the pitfalls of inaccurately hosting depositions online.

Understandably, as the volume of litigation continues to climb and the availability of professional court reporters continues to dwindle, law firms and corporations need reliable alternatives to soundly producing the written record.

Now, more than ever, attorneys and their teams must inject new efficiencies into the way depositions are managed. There are two reliable concepts that every team should consider:

Remote Deposition – Videoconferencing

Witness and Court Reporter are in the same room while members of the legal teams may be remote

Remote Reporter – Videoconferencing

Witness, Court Reporter and entire legal team is remote (As permitted by state laws and regulations)

Take immediate action to become proficient in managing your cases online! Attend this one-hour complimentary session and witness first-hand how important cloud-based functions work in remote depositions, such as real-time transcription of the testimony, electronic exhibits, secure chat features, video recording, and more. In addition, we will cover what you need to know about working with a remote court reporter to ensure that the record is captured accurately and efficiently.

Get answers to these top five remote depositions and remote court reporter questions:

1. What is a remote deposition?
2. How can we ensure videoconferencing technology works smoothly?
3. What are the benefits of hosting depositions remotely and using a remote court reporter?
4. Why can I trust that a remote court reporter will accurately produce the record?
5. Are remote depositions and remote court reporters legal in my state?

DATE: Wed., April 15, 2020

TIME: 12:00 PM EST

REGISTRATION LINK:

Register to attend by completing the form. You will receive an email with the link to join the live webinar event.

https://esquiresolutions.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9zaP2Lc8twsD1tj

© 2020 Esquire Deposition Solutions LLC

In coordination with Esquire Deposition Solutions, on April 15, 2020, CABA co-sponsored its first virtual webinar of 2020 titled “Conducting Depositions Online: What You Need to Know to Execute the Process Successfully and Legally.” This virtual event was co-moderated by CABA’s President, Frances G. De La Guardia, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.



Presents

PROTOCOL & PROCEDURE
FOR VIRTUAL COURTROOM
HEARINGS:
A DISCUSSION WITH
HON. MARTIN ZILBER

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

4:30 - 5:30 PM
(EST)

SPEAKER: JUDGE ZILBER



Please RSVP to administration@cabaonline.com.

To Join by Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/99422068241> (Meeting ID: 994 2206 8241)

To Join by Dial-In:

+17866351003 US

On April 23, 2020, CABA organized a virtual webinar that offered CLE credit in coordination with **The Honorable Martin Zilber**, of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Civil Court in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, who addressed the following topics: (1) courtroom protocol for attending remote hearings on motion calendar, special set calendar, and for evidentiary purposes, (2) virtual professionalism pointers, (3) local administrative rules and requirements, (4) virtual courtroom etiquette and judicial expectations, (5) practical advice for effectively litigating remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, (6) what hearings are going forth remotely, (7) what hearings and/or types trials be re-scheduled, (8) whether pretrial deadlines are being postponed, and other matters related to practicing virtually before the courts. This virtual event was moderated by CABA's President, Frances G. De La Guardia, Esq. and CABA Director, Candice Balmori, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.

**BAKER
DONELSON**

CABA
Cuban American
Bar Association

This is an advertisement.

CYBERSECURITY WEBINAR



[REGISTER](#)

COVID-19 and the Telework Environment: Addressing Cybersecurity Risks for Lawyers

Join the Cuban American Bar Association and Aldo M. Leiva, Of Counsel with Baker Donelson, for this complimentary webinar addressing cybersecurity risks to lawyers and their clients in the telework environment and practical tips to avoid such potential risks. Mr. Leiva will discuss COVID-19-related threats and scams, technical risks inherent in the home environment, and recommended strategies to conduct remote depositions and hearings via videoconference services.

Wednesday, April 29

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET

Presented by Baker Donelson attorney:



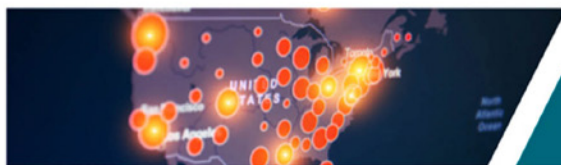
Aldo M. Leiva

Of Counsel

954.768.1622

aleiva@bakerdonelson.com

This program has been submitted for one hour of CLE credit in Florida.



STATE RESTRICTIONS AND RESOURCES

[Click here to see how COVID-19 implications are being addressed in your state.](#)

On April 29th, 2020, CABA organized a webinar titled: “COVID-19 and the Telework Environment: Addressing Cybersecurity Risks for Lawyers,” which addressed cybersecurity risks to lawyers and their clients in the telework environment, including discussion of COVID-19- related cybersecurity threats and scams, and will offer practical tips to avoid and address such potential risks. Technical risks inherent in the home environment were also discussed by the presenter and CABA member, **Mr. Aldo Leiva, Esq.** of the law firm Baker Donelson, as well as recommended strategies to conduct remote depositions and hearings via videoconferencing services. This virtual webinar event was generously co-sponsored by Baker Donelson. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.

CABA & MDFAWL PRESENT:
VIRTUAL YOGA FOR BEGINNERS
 WITH INSTRUCTOR ANNY NORATTO

Thursday, April 30, 2020 | 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 PM

Join us for a virtual yoga class focused on breathing, balance, stretching, and crafting intention during this uncertain time.

Donations are welcome
 venmo @Anny-Noratto
 cash app 786-488-8364

Register on MDFAWL's website to receive a Zoommeeting link

VIRTUAL YOGA

Led by:
The Hon. Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson
 County Civil Division of the 11th Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida

Tuesday, May 26th | 6 PM

VIA ZOOM

In Partnership with:

On April 30, 2020, CABA held a joint virtual event with MDFAWL, organized in coordination with CABA's emphasis on its 2020 Health and Wellness Initiative. Members of both CABA and MDFAWL came together virtually from the comfort of their own homes to kick off a monthly beginners yoga series. Yoga instructor **Anny Noratto**, who also leads The Underline's weekly Yoga series, powered by Baptist Health South Florida, volunteered to kick off the joint monthly virtual yoga session for the month of April.

As a part of its ongoing 2020 Health and Wellness Initiative, and in coordination with MDFAWL, on May 26, 2020, CABA was pleased to host the second joint monthly yoga session, which is an ongoing series every month, with members of MDFAWL, led by **The Hon. Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson**, of Miami-Dade County, Florida. In addition to serving as a Judge in the County Civil Division of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, Judge Gonzalez-Paulson is a certified yoga instructor and her commitment to lending her time and talent to this monthly joint yoga session is a testament to the manner in which our legal community continues to come together to support one another during the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are grateful for Judge Gonzalez-Paulson's dedication to her practice and to helping our members find their balance during this time.



Mindfulness & Meditation in Practice During COVID-19

MAY THE
4TH BE
WITH YOU

Presented by: Tony Recio, Esq.
Partner at Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman
12:00 - 1:00 PM

In Partnership with:



#CABACares



CLE Approved

As a part of its ongoing 2020 Health and Wellness Initiative, on May 4, 2020, CABA organized a virtual Mindfulness webinar titled “May the 4th Be With You: Mindfulness and Meditation in Practice During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” After 3 years of isolation in a Buddhist retreat, land use and zoning attorney Anthony “Tony” Recio, Esq. of the law firm Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, shared mental health strategies to cope with stress in times of uncertainty - those little uncertainties that attorneys have to face all the time, and much larger ones like COVID-19 and its aftermath. The webinar included mindfulness practice instruction, advice and meditation exercises, as well as a practical discussion about the benefits of learning to not believe everything we think (i.e. not letting our minds run away with us). This virtual event was moderated by CABA Director, Haydee Sera, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending. On June 1 and July 13, 2020, Mr. Recio guided additional “Mindful Mondays” meditations, continuing to share the benefits of mindfulness practice with CABA’s members and colleagues. During the July 13 Mindful Mondays session, the Honorable Jose Rodriguez joined Mr. Recio in leading a meditation and shared how meditation has assisted him in the practice of law and serving as a Judge.



CABA
Cuban American
Bar Association

MINDFUL MONDAYS

Meditation led by
Tony Recio, Esq.

WEISS SEROTA
HELPMAN COLE + BIERMANN

Monday, June 1, 2020
12:00 to 12:30 p.m.
Via Zoom





Ethics, Origination and Marketing: Find the Rainmaker Inside You

Webinar

Speaker: Howard Wolkowitz
Author of It's Raining Clients:
Find the Rainmaker Inside You



Tuesday, May 5th, 12:00 PM

Approved for 1 General and 1 Ethics CLE Credit

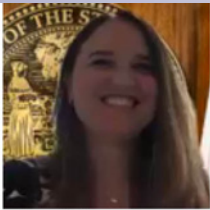
On May 5, 2020, CABA Director Augusto Perera, Esq. facilitated a lunchtime CLE presentation by **Howard Wolkowitz**, which addressed ways to gain and retain clients, particularly during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Wolkowitz's presentation came at a time in the COVID-19 Pandemic when many members of the legal profession may have found themselves struggling to make projections and continue to grow their practices and this virtual event provided a discussion tailored to successful methods to achieve same. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.



Judge Jennifer D. Bailey



Judge Carol-Lisa Phillips



Judge Gina Beovides



Judge Lisa S. Small



VIRTUAL COURTROOM PROCEDURES & PROCEEDINGS: A DISCUSSION WITH SOUTH FLORIDA'S JUDGES

Speakers

- The Hon. Jennifer D. Bailey, Administrative Judge, Circuit Civil Division, 11th Judicial Circuit
- The Hon. Nushin Sayfie, Administrative Judge, Circuit Criminal Division, 11th Judicial Circuit
- The Hon. Lisa S. Small, Administrative Judge, Circuit Civil Division, 15th Judicial Circuit
- The Hon. Carol-Lisa Phillips, Administrative Judge, Circuit Civil Division, 17th Judicial Circuit
- The Hon. Gina Beovides, Circuit Criminal Division, 11th Judicial Circuit
- The Hon. Bertila Soto, Chief Judge, 11th Judicial Circuit

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020
4:30 - 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM

Sponsored By

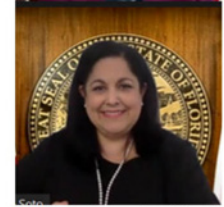


Holland & Knight

CLE Credits Pending



Judge Nushin Sayfie



Judge Bertila Soto



Frances G. De La Guardia
CABA President



Candice Balmori
CABA Director

On May 7, 2020, judges from the Tri-County Area of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, came together virtually to address the changing legal landscape in their Circuit Courts, with particular emphasis on the following topics: (1) courtroom protocol for attending virtual hearings on motion calendar, special set calendar, and for evidentiary purposes, (2) virtual professionalism pointers, (3) Local administrative rules and requirements, (4) virtual courtroom etiquette and judicial expectations for professionalism, (5) practical advice for effectively litigating remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, (6) what hearings are going forth remotely, (7) what hearings and/or types trials be rescheduled, (8) whether pretrial deadlines are being postponed, and other matters related to practicing virtually before the courts. The judges participating in this virtual webinar included: **The Hon. Bertila Soto**, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, **The Hon. Jennifer D. Bailey**, Administrative Judge, Circuit Civil Division, Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, **The Hon. Carol-Lisa Phillips**, Administrative Judge, Circuit Civil Division, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida, **The Hon. Lisa S. Small**, Administrative Judge, Circuit Civil Division, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Palm Beach County, Florida, **The Hon. Gina Beovides**, Judge, Circuit Criminal Division, Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending. This virtual event was moderated by CABA's President, Frances G. De La Guardia, Esq. and CABA Director, Candice Balmori, Esq.

THE CHANGING LEGAL MARKET IN LIGHT OF COVID-19: A CONVERSATION WITH CABA

A discussion with law students and young lawyers regarding new challenges in the legal field

Monday, May 11th, 2020
12:00 PM



On May 11, 2020, CABA held its webinar, “The Changing Legal Market in Light of Covid-19: A Conversation with CABA,” with over twenty law students to discuss law school, searching for a job, mentoring, and networking during the COVID-19 pandemic. CABA Board members provided students with advice regarding these issues.



"PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND EXPERIENCES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC"

Panelists:

Judge Thomas J. Rebull,
11th Judicial Circuit, Appellate Division

Judge Andrea R. Wolfson,
11th Judicial Circuit, Criminal Division

Judge Miguel M. de la O
11th Judicial Circuit, Criminal Division

In Partnership with:



Tuesday, May 19th
12:00 PM

#CABACares

CLE Credits Approved



Judge Andrea R. Wolfson



Judge Thomas J. Rebull



Judge Miguel M. de la O

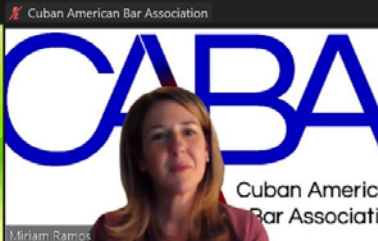


Miriam Ramos
CABA Director

On May 19, 2020, **The Hon. Miguel M. de la O**, **The Hon. Thomas J. Rebull**, and **The Hon. Andrea R. Wolfson**, from the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Civil Court in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida joined CABA for a virtual webinar wherein they addressed topics related to professionalism, ethics, and the use of technology in virtual court proceedings, with particular emphasis on the use of remote technology in a professional manner, judicial expectations for professionalism in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of communication with the Court and other attorneys, and professional and ethical obligations of candor to the Court and to effective representation of clients in Court proceedings, despite the hurdles that technological challenges may present and the new virtual court atmosphere. This virtual event was moderated by CABA Vice President, Miriam Ramos, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.



Judge Wolfson



Miriam Ramos



Judge Rebull



Judge Miguel de la O



HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT
Jose A. Villalobos



GUEST SPEAKER
Andrew Platt

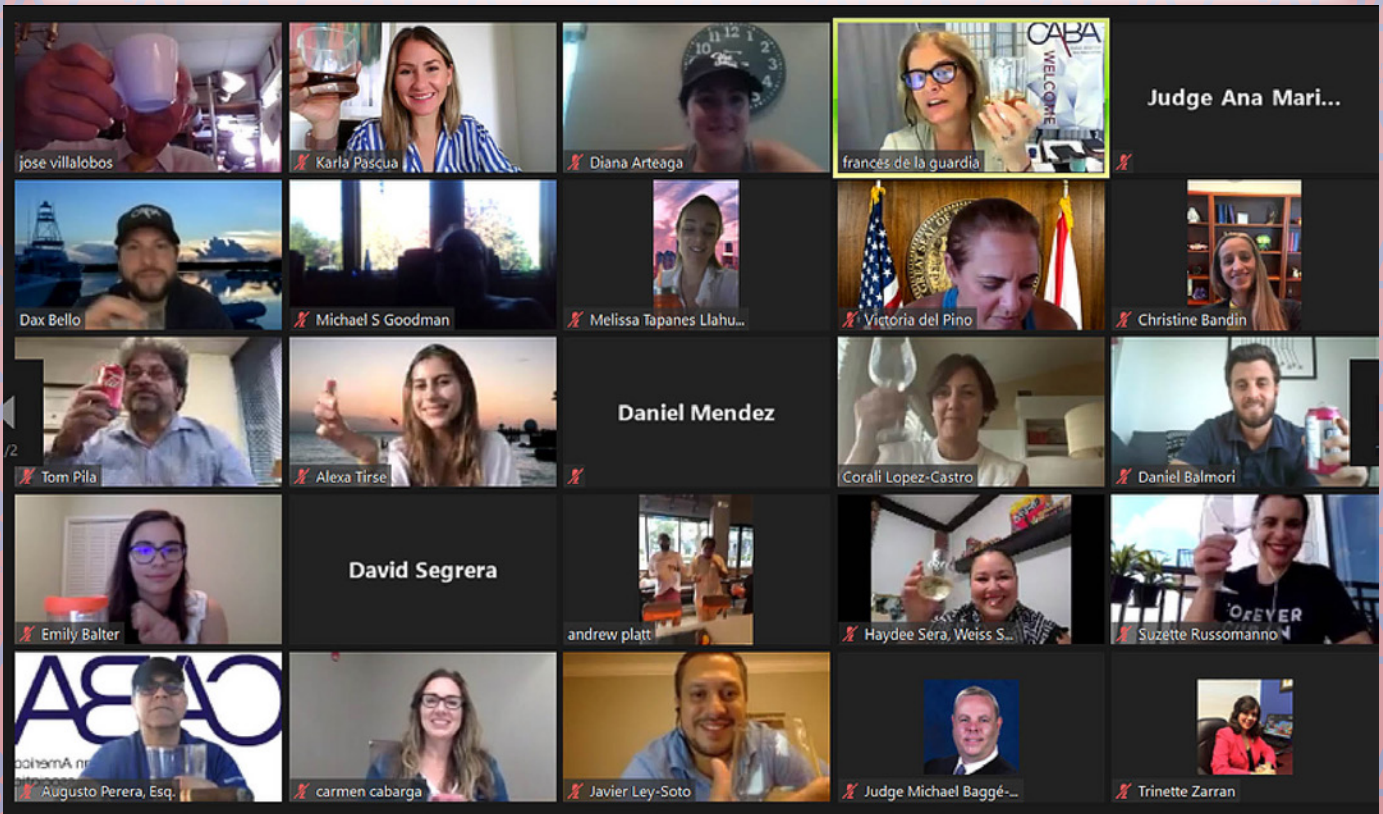


Featured Cocktail:
El Presidente

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 oz. Diplomatico Rum Blanco
- 3/4 oz. Dolin de Chambéry Blanc vermouth
- 3/4 oz. Noilly Prat extra dry vermouth
- 1/4 oz. house-made Grenadine
- 1/4 oz. Pierre Ferrand dry curacao (optional)
- 1 dash Regans' Orange Bitters No.6

On May 20, 2020, CABA celebrated Cuba's historic independence day from Spain and hosted its first ever Virtual Happy Hour, which featured a cocktail mixology demonstration of a drink named El Presidente, which was given by **Andrew Platt**, Corporate Executive Chef of Grove Bay Hospitality Group. This drink paired well with a Historical Highlight shared by CABA Past President **Jose A. Villalobos, Esq.**, of the law firm Akerman, who offered attendees a historical perspective on the importance of this date in Cuban history. Monthly Historical Highlight Happy Hours are a new 2020 initiative of the CABA on Cuba Committee's virtual programming, with the intent to continue to educate our membership on historical facts pertinent to Cuba and the greater Cuban diaspora.



COVID-19 VS. LAW FIRMS

Speaker: Patrick Gamero,
PG Solutions
Thursday, May 21st | 12 PM

VIA ZOOM

CLE Pending



In Partnership With:



On May 21st **Mr. Patrick Gamero**, President of PG Solutions Miami, joined CABA for a virtual webinar to discuss how law firms are keeping up with the COVID-19 pandemic. He discussed current technological challenges law firms are confronting as well as how the court system is handling technology to continue operating during these times. Finally, Mr. Gamero discussed the differences between “On Premise v. Cloud & SaaS.” This event was moderated by CABA Director Augusto Perera.



COVID-19 VS LAW FIRMS
How to Modernize to Keep Up with the Pandemic

WELCOME
THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN SHORTLY

zoom 0



www.cabaonline.com

CABA
Cuban American Bar Association

**COVID-19'S IMPACT ON CONTRACTS AND BUSINESSES:
HOW TO KEEP YOUR CLIENTS PROTECTED AND INFORMED**

Thursday, May 28th | 12 PM

Guest Speakers:
Peter F. Valori, Esq., Damian & Valori LLP, Managing Partner
Russell Landy, Esq., Damian & Valori LLP, Partner

VIA ZOOM
CLE Credits Approved

In Partnership with:
Gaucha Ranch • GRILL BOUTIQUE & WINES •
DAMIAN & VALORI LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Culmo
#CABACares

On May 28, 2020, CABA presented a webinar entitled “COVID-19’s Impact on Contracts & Business.” **Peter F. Valori**, managing partner at Damian & Valori LLP, discussed force majeure, impossibility of performance, and frustration of purpose, and delved into the implications that the COVID-19 pandemic may have on contract. **Russell Landy**, partner at Damian & Valori LLP, discussed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, returning to work, and other employment issues resulting from the pandemic. Amanda L. Fernandez, CABA Director and attorney at Damian & Valori LLP, moderated the discussion.



Amanda Fernandez, Esq.
CABA Director

Peter F. Valori, Esq.
Damian & Valori, LLP.

Russel Landy, Esq.
Damian & Valori, LLP.

Augusto Perera, Esq.
CABA Director



Rosa Maria Payá Acevedo

CABA
Cuban American Bar Association

**The New Plaza Cívica in Cuba:
The Role of Social Media
& Digital Platforms**

Thursday, June 4, 2020
12:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Guest Speakers:

Rosa Maria Payá Acevedo
Cuba Decide

Aldo M. Leiva, Esq.
Baker Donelson

In Partnership with:
Stephanie's KITCHEN

#CABACares



Aldo M. Leiva, Esq.

On June 4, 2020, the CABA on Cuba Committee organized a virtual webinar designed to review and analyze Cuban Ley Decreto 370, a law that was enacted on July 4, 2019 which establishes control of the internet by the Cuban government by way of Article 68 of the Cuban Constitution. Legal analysis was provided by **Mr. Aldo Leiva, Esq.**, of the law firm Baker Donelson. Analysis included a review of this law's provisions, implications, implementation, and constitutionality under Articles 68 and 54 of the Cuban Constitution and in comparison to international human rights norms expressed in Article IV of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man espoused by the Organization of American States. This virtual webinar also explored international law and human rights concepts of freedom of expression, of association, and of the press and will discuss what increased access to the internet, social media, and digital platforms in Cuba mean for its people and for a government that is no longer easily able to monitor and occupy a physical space when it comes to the exchange of ideas and, in particular, dissidence. We were honored to also be joined by **Rosa Maria Paya**, a Cuban human rights activist and founding member of Cuba Decide, which is an organization advocating for the direct democratic election of government by Cuba's own civil society. Particular emphasis was given to a discussion on the effect of this law on digital content and commentary relating to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purposes of obtaining reliable and relevant news and information regarding same. This virtual event was moderated by CABA Director, Candice Balmori, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.



CABA
Cuban American Bar Association

2020 Florida Bar Virtual Annual Convention Event

Mojitos & Masks
Legal Networking in the Age of Coronavirus

Thursday, June 18
6:00 - 8:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

Guest Speakers:

- The Hon. Roberto A. Arias**
(Duval County Court)
- The Hon. Michael C. Baggé-Hernández**
(Hillsborough County Court)
- The Hon. Denise Beamer**
(Orange County Circuit Criminal Court)
- The Hon. Robert F. Diaz**
(Broward County Court)

Remarks by:
Florida Bar President Dori Foster Morales and
Florida Bar President Elect Mike Tanner

Join Andrew Platt, Corporate Executive Chef at Grove Bay Hospitality Group, and CABA for a cocktail demonstration followed by a discussion on the importance of building community.

In Partnership with: CLE Credits Approved

Click Here to Register:
https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/1YudO1grDsuGdLHmujw7A75BIVMKt2_aL

On June 18th, 2020, in conjunction with The Florida Bar’s Annual Convention, CABA hosted a virtual reception and CLE event titled “Mojitos & Masks: Legal Networking in the Age of Coronavirus,” which featured a mojito-making demonstration by **Andrew Platt**, Corporate Executive Chef of Grove Bay Hospitality Group, live from Coconut Grove restaurant, Glass & Vine, and a conversation with judges from across the state speaking on the importance of building community during this time. The judges who participated in this event included **The Hon. Roberto A. Arias** (Duval County), **The Hon. Michael C. Baggé-Hernández** (Hillsborough County), **The Hon. Denise Beamer** (Orange County), and **The Hon. Robert F. Diaz** (Broward County). This event was attended by members from various locations in Florida and some across the country and opening remarks were given by **Florida Bar President, Dori Foster-Morales** as well as **Florida Bar President-Elect Michael Tanner**. This virtual event was moderated by CABA’s President, Frances G. De La Guardia, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.

The Hon. Robert F. Diaz The Hon. Denise Beamer The Hon. Michael Baggé-Hernández The Hon. Roberto A. Arias Michael Tanner Florida Bar President - Elect Dori Foster - Morales Florida Bar President

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Andrew Platt
Corporate Executive Chef
Grove Bay Hospitality Group

Frances G. De La Guardia
CABA President - Elect

Dax Bello
CABA President - Elect

CABA
Cuban American Bar Association

2020 Florida Bar Virtual Annual Convention Event

Mojitos & Masks
Legal Networking in the Age of Coronavirus

Thursday, June 18
6:00 - 8:00 PM
VIA ZOOM

Guest Speakers:

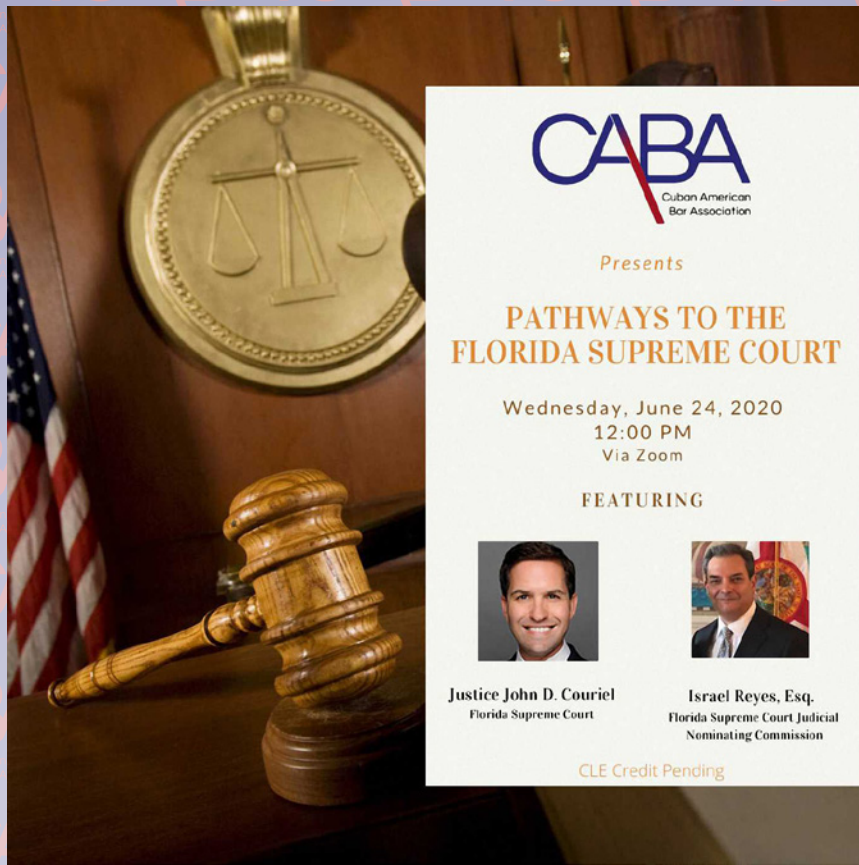
- The Hon. Roberto A. Arias**
(Duval County Court)
- The Hon. Michael C. Baggé-Hernández**
(Hillsborough County Court)
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(Orange County Circuit Criminal Court)
- The Hon. Robert F. Diaz**
(Broward County Court)

Remarks by:
Florida Bar President Dori Foster Morales and
Florida Bar President Elect Mike Tanner

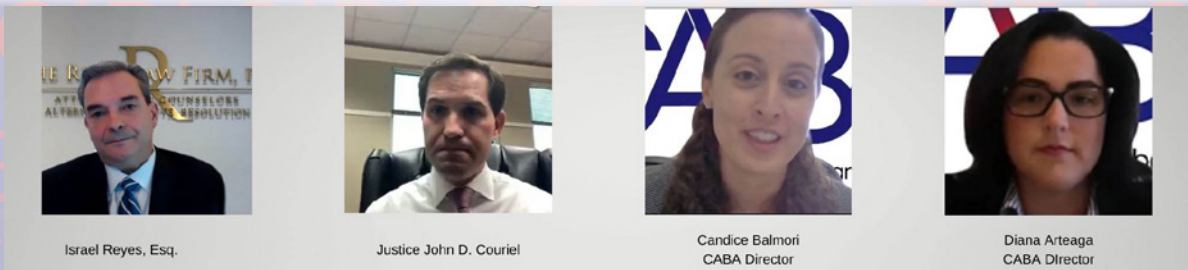
Join Andrew Platt, Corporate Executive Chef at Grove Bay Hospitality Group, and CABA for a cocktail demonstration followed by a discussion on the importance of building community.

In Partnership with: CLE Credits Approved

Click Here to Register:
https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/1YudO1grDsuGdLHmujw7A75BIVMKt2_aL



On June 24, 2020, CABA organized a virtual event aimed at reviewing and analyzing the pathways available to become a member of the Florida Supreme Court. **Justice John D. Couriel** of the Florida Supreme Court and **Israel Reyes, Esq.** of the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission, shared their experiences throughout the nomination process. Topics included background experience, the application process, and the interview process, among others. Additionally, Justice John D. Couriel shared a bit about his background and about his decision to pursue a seat on the bench. This virtual event was co-moderated by CABA Directors, **Diana Arteaga, Esq.** and **Candice Balmori, Esq.** Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.



"PRIDE" IN THE LAW: CELEBRATING THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Thursday, June 25th • Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Join us for an open dialogue discussing the challenges and progression of the LGBTQ community in the legal profession.

U.S. District Judge
Darrin P. Gayles
Featured Speaker



Grace Mead
Partner, Stearns Weaver
Featured Speaker



Judge David Young
Featured Speaker



Edward Guedes,
Partner, WSHC • B
Moderator



Judge Mavel Ruiz
Featured Speaker



Chanae Wood,
Associate, WSHC • B
Moderator



Free Webinar Co-Hosted By:



DCBA Diversity &
Inclusion Committee
Gilbert K. Squires,
President

Pending CLE credit in Florida



BCWLA
Broward County Women
Lawyers' Association



On June 25, 2020, CABA was proud to co-sponsor the virtual webinar titled "Pride' in the Law: Celebrating the LGBTQ Community in the Legal Profession." CABA members joined **The Hon. Darrin P. Gayles**, **The Hon. David Young**, **The Hon. Mavel Ruiz**, and **Grace Mead, Esq.** of the law firm Stearns Weaver, as well as other members from the legal community to contemplate and discuss the challenges and progression of the LGBTQ community in the legal profession. This event was moderated by Edward Guedes, Esq. and Chanae Wood, Esq. of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman.



How Young Lawyers Can Survive and Thrive in the Age of COVID-19

Thursday, June 25, 2020
4:30 - 5:30 PM
Via Zoom

Guest Speaker:

Francisco "Frank" Ramos, Jr., Esq
Managing Partner of Clarke Silverplate in Miami

CLE Credit Approved

Get amazing insights in honor of Pride Month

#CABACares

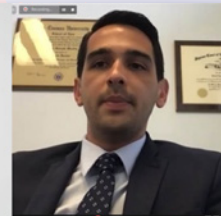
On June 25, 2020, the CABA Young Lawyers Committee organized a virtual webinar for our Young Attorneys to discuss how young lawyers can work, grow and market effectively from home and make the most of their practice and business development in this age of working remotely and social distancing. **Frank Ramos, Esq.** addressed CABA membership with regard to the handling, managing and advancing of cases during these isolated times and further discussed attorney marketing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This virtual event was moderated by CABA Director Daniel Buigas, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.



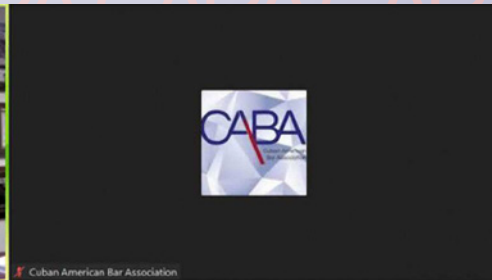
Frank Ramos Jr., Esq.



Danny Buigas
CABA Director



Danny Mendez
CABA Director



CABA
Cuban American Bar Association

Presents
CABA FIT

PUSH YOURSELF HARD

Saturday, June 27
10:00 AM
With Instructor Ramon Jesurun
VIA ZOOM

Exclusive Event for CABA Members Only

Presented in coordination with:

As part of CABA's 2020 Health and Wellness Initiative, CABA was pleased to begin its weekly CABA Fit program, which is an ongoing weekly series, led by Futness, a Miami-Dade based fitness studio which incorporates practices of soccer training into its high-intensity cardio fitness program. CABA is grateful to fitness instructor Ramon Jesurun for his dedication to helping our membership thrive with a weekly virtual at-home fitness regimen during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This fitness initiative was coordinated by CABA Director Augusto Perera, Esq. The current event dates are as follows: Saturday, June 20th, Saturday June 27th, Saturday July 11th, Saturday July 18th.

Ask to Unmute

Cardice Balmori

Cuban American Bar Association

Pascal Michel

Miriam Ramos

Emily Balter

Augusto Perera, Esq.

rj

frances de la guardia

CABA
Cuban American
Bar Association

**COUCH TO 5K
PROGRAM**

Thursday, July 2, 2020
4:30 PM
VIA ZOOM

Guest Speaker
Frankie Ruiz
Co-Founder of The Miami Marathon

Training together for a virtual 5K
coming up Mid August

As part of its ongoing 2020 Health and Wellness Initiative, on July 2, 2020, CABA's Mental Health Committee with the assistance of CABA Member Yara Lorenzo, Esq. organized a virtual event titled "CABA's Couch to 5K Running Plan." While we may all be separated in physical distance as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, our cohesive community is already planning to run a virtual 5K race together in August! With the help of Frankie Ruiz, Co-Founder of The Miami Marathon, we encourage all CABA members interested to start training today!

PANDEMIC & LAW SERIES: PERSPECTIVES FROM HEALTHCARE AND GOVERNMENT LAWYERS



Tuesday, July 7, 2020
12:00 PM- 1:30 PM
Via Zoom

Guest Speakers:

Maria D. Garcia, Esq.
Partner at Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton



Maria T. Santi, Esq.
Health Insurance Partner
at Marin, Eljaiek, Lopez & Martinez, P.L.



Miriam Soler Ramos, Esq.
City Attorney of Coral Gables, Florida



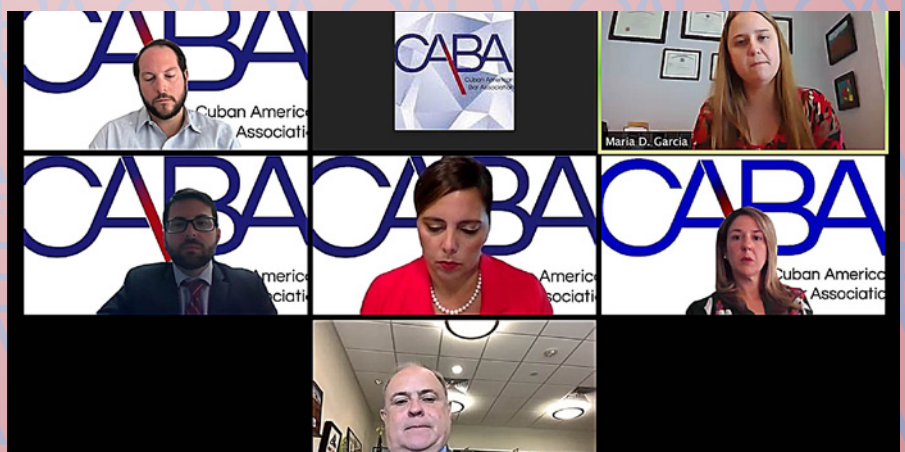
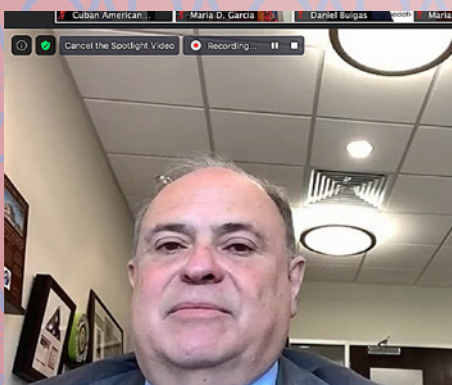
Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez, Esq.
Mayor of the City of Doral and
Partner at Sanchez-Medina, Gonzalez, Quessada, Lope,
Gomez & Machado LLP.



CLE Credits Approved

CABA Members: Free / Non-Members: \$15

On July 7, 2020, CABA held a virtual webinar as a part of its Pandemic & Law Series titled “Perspectives from Health and Government Lawyers.” Guest speakers for this event included Mayor of the City of Doral, **Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez, Esq.**, **Miriam Soler Ramos, Esq.**, City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables, **Maria Garcia, Esq.**, of the law firm Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton, and **Maria Santi, Esq.**, of the law firm Marin, Eljaiek, Lopez & Martinez, P.L. Guest speakers discussed how COVID-19 has changed the laws governing healthcare and municipal practices and how those laws are being applied and implemented to address the Pandemic. This virtual event was co-moderated by CABA Director Daniel Buigas, Esq. and CABA President-Elect A. Dax Bello, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.





PRESENTS THE

CAPITOLIO

SERIES

A 2020 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
& 2021 SESSION PREVIEW



Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez
Dist. 37 - D
Part of Miami-Dade
Featured Panelist



Rep. Vance Aloupis
Dist. 115 - R
Part of Miami-Dade
Featured Panelist



Haydee Sera, Partner
Weiss Serota Helfman
Cole + Bierman
Moderator

THURSDAY | JULY 16, 2020 | NOON

ZOOM WEBINAR

CLE CREDIT PENDING APPROVAL
CABA MEMBERS: COMPLIMENTARY | NON-MEMBERS: \$15



On July 16, 2020, CABA's Legislative Committee launched the CABA at the Capitol series. The first event featured two Florida lawmakers, Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez and Representative Vance Aloupis, who provided their insights on significant legislation from the 2020 Florida Legislative Session and discussed what to expect in the 2021 Session. This event was organized and moderated by CABA Director Haydee Sera, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending. Additional webinars are being planned with lawmakers from throughout Florida to address legislation that may affect our members' practices and clients.

WELCOME
THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN SHORTLY
CABA @ The Capitol



PATHWAYS TO MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

Tuesday, July 21, 2020
12:00 PM

Guest Speaker:

Ruth Swissa

MSC Psychology, Post Grad Cert CC Psych
Founder of Plum THS

Come learn about the different pathways to mental health services and how COVID-19 has impacted these services.



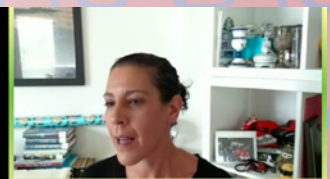
CLE CREDITS PENDING



As part of its on-going 2020 Health and Wellness Initiative, the CABA Mental Health Committee organized a virtual webinar on July 21, 2020 whereby **Ruth Swissa**, MSC Psychology, Post Grad Cert CC Psych, discussed the pathways available to receiving mental health services, inclusive of residential treatment options, partial hospitalization programs, intensive outpatient treatment, outpatient treatment, and the importance of telehealth/telemental health and health insurance options during the COVID-19 Pandemic. By way of its Health and Wellness Initiative, CABA is committed to providing its members and the greater legal community access to resources that can assist both attorneys (and in turn, their clients) with programs aimed to better their mental and physical well-being. This event was organized and moderated by CABA Director Diana Arteaga, Esq. and Nory M. Acosta-Lopez. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.

- Marchman Act receiving facility (60-90 days)
- Ongoing stabilization for Mental Health, If AHCA Licensed.
- Dually Licensed (AHCA and DCF)
- Who does DCF serve: SUD
- Who does AHCA Serve: MH
- Why is it important to know the difference (how many AHCA beds vs DCF beds at a facility)

Residential Level Of Care



CABA
Cuban American Bar Association

YOU'RE INVITED!
VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

JOSE MARTI AND HIS LEGACY
Thursday, July 30 | 6 pm | Via Zoom

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT BY:
Jose A. Villalobos, Esq.,
Attorney, Akerman,
CABA Past President

COCKTAIL MIXOLOGY BY:
Gabriel Urrutia

Sponsored by:
Stewart Tilghman Fox Bianchi & Cain
ABERFELDY

CABA
Cuban American Bar Association

The first 35 registrants are eligible for a FREE CABA Cocktail Ingredients Swag Bag! To be eligible, you must have a valid CABA membership and you must register by Monday, July 27th @ 5:00 p.m.

Featured Cocktail:
Manhattan

Cocktail Recipe

- 1 oz Aberfeldy 12
- 1 oz Havana Club
- 1 oz Martini Vermouth
- 2 dashes bitters
- Branded cherry
- Glass Rocks or Coupe

Method:
Add all ingredients to mixing glass and stir until chilled. Strain over fresh ice in rocks glass or serve in coupe. Garnish with Branded Cherry

ABERFELDY

On July 30, 2020, in coordination with the CABA on Cuba Committee, CABA hosted its July Virtual Happy Hour, which featured a cocktail mixology demonstration of a drink named the Manhattan, which was given by **Gabriel Urrutia**, of Aberfeldy. This drink paired well with a Historical Highlight shared by CABA Past President **Jose A. Villalobos, Esq.**, of the law firm Akerman, who offered attendees an historical perspective on the importance of Jose Marti and His Legacy to Cuba and the Cuban Diaspora. Because Cuban poet and patriot Jose Marti (who lived and worked briefly in Manhattan) first published La Edad de Oro in New York in July of 1889, the CABA on Cuba Committee decided to highlight his works and deeds during the month of July. Monthly Historical Highlight Happy Hours are a new 2020 initiative of the CABA on Cuba Committee's virtual programming, with the intent to continue to educate our membership on historical facts pertinent to Cuba and the greater Cuban diaspora. This event was kindly sponsored by Aberfeldy and Stewart Tilghman Fox Bianchi & Cain, P.A.. The first 35 registered attendees received a complimentary delivery of Cocktail Ingredients thanks, in part, to the generosity and support of these sponsors.

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting grid. The grid shows approximately 20 participants in various video feeds. Some participants are speaking, while others are listening. The feeds include logos for CABA and Aberfeldy. The names of participants visible include Candice Balmori, Jose A. Villalobos, Gabe Urrutia, Heloiza Correa, Leandra Lopez, Ian Corp, Dax Bello, Daniel Buigas, Lorna Brown-Burton, Gabriel Skelton, Alessandria San Rom... Nathalie Vergoulias, and Augusto Maxwell. The bottom of the screen shows Zoom controls like 'Cancel the Spotlight: Video' and 'Recording...'.

PANDEMIC & LAW SERIES: THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN TIMES OF COVID-19



Thursday, July 30, 2020
12:00 PM- 1:30 PM
Via Zoom

Guest Speakers:

Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, Esq.
Miami-Dade County State Attorney



Carlos Martinez, Esq.
Miami-Dade County Public Defender



CLE Credits Pending
CABA Members: Free / Non-Members: \$15

On July 30, 2020, **Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, Esq.**, the Miami-Dade County State Attorney, and **Carlos Martinez, Esq.**, the Miami-Dade County Public Defender, discussed how the criminal justice system has been affected by COVID-19. Specifically, Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, Esq. discussed how COVID-19 has affected the criminal justice system from a prosecutor's perspective and Carlos Martinez, Esq. discussed how COVID-19 has affected the criminal justice system from a public defender's perspective. This event was organized and moderated by CABA Director Daniel Buigas, Esq. and CABA President-Elect, A. Dax Bello, Esq. Participating attorneys received Florida CLE credit for attending.



